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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRD COUNCIL UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1919.

Tuesday, the 14th December 1926

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PERSONNEL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Governor of Madras.

His Excellency the Rt. Hon. *Viscount* GOSCHEN OF HAWKHURST, G.C.I.E., C.B.E. Took his seat on 14th April 1924.

Members of the Executive Council.

1. The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR, K.C.I.E., Law Member. Took his seat on 12th February 1923 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- Civil Justice.
- Criminal Justice (including petitions for mercy).
- Elections.
- Electricity (including hydro-electric schemes).
- Foreigners.
- Fortnightly report.
- Irrigation.
- Landlord and tenant.
- Legislative.
- Magistracy.
- Marine (Central subject).
- Miscellaneous Judicial heads.
- Passports.
- Police including Criminal Investigation Department.
- Press and registration of books.
- Publicity including Editors' Table.
- Railways.
- Report on matters of political and administrative importance.
- State prisoners.
- Translators to Government.

2. The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Member in charge of Revenue. Took his seat on 27th December 1924 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- Agency.
- Constitution of districts, divisions and taluks.
- Court of Wards.
- Economic condition (including prices and wages).
- Escheats.
- Famine.
- General (i.e., questions of a general nature which cannot be allocated to any particular department).
- Government Servants' Conduct Rules.
- Indian Civil Service—Questions other than leave and appointments.
- Land Revenue, Survey and Settlement.
- Mines.
- Office procedure.
- Petition rules—General questions.
- Pounds and special funds.
- Public Service Commission and service questions including examinations and special tests and land returns.
- Reforms—not being legislative.
- Treasure trove.
- Warrant of precedence.
- Wild animals.
- Yeomiahs, inams and hereditary pensions.

3. The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur, Home Member. Took his seat on the 30th March 1925 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- Administration report.
- Air-craft.
- Arms and explosives.
- Boilers.
- Census.
- Certificate of age and qualification.
- Criminal Tribes.
- Depressed classes.
- Emigration.
- Forests (including cinchona).
- Government Houses.
- Jails.
- Labour (including factories).
- Laccadives.
- Pilgrims to the Hedjaz.
- Reformatories.
- Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications and standards.
- Rewards for saving life and property.
- Staff and household of His Excellency the Governor.
- Stamps.
- Stationery and Government Presses.

4. The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Finance Member. Took his seat on 27th April 1925 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

Central Subjects—
- Archæology and Epigraphy.
- Customs (including trade).
- Ecclesiastical.
- Income-tax.
- Meteorology.
- Opium.
- Political (other than matters relating to Indian States).

Central Subjects—*cont.*
- Post Office.
- Salt.
- Telegraphs and telephones.

- European education.
- Finance.
- Military.
- Move of Government to the Hills.
- Pensions.

Ministers.

1. The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN. Took his seat on 4th December 1926 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- Education other than European and Anglo-Indian education.
- Libraries, Museums and Zoological Gardens.
- Light and feeder Railways and Tramways within municipal areas.
- Local Self-Government.

2. The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR. Took his seat on 4th December 1926 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- Agriculture.
- Civil Veterinary department.
- Co-operative Societies.
- Development of industries.
- Public Works (buildings, roads, ferries, ropeways, etc.).
- Registration.
- Religious and Charitable Endowments.

3. The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR Avargal. Took his seat on 4th December 1926 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- Adulteration of foodstuffs and other articles.
- Excise.
- Fisheries.
- Medical administration.
- Pilgrimages within British India.
- Public health and sanitation and vital statistics.
- Weights and Measures.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President.

The hon. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU Garu, B.A., B.L.

Deputy President.

(...............)

Panel of Chairmen.

(...............)

Secretary to the Council.

M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR Avargal, B.A., M.L.

Assistant Secretary to the Council.

M.R.Ry. C. SATAGOPA ACHARIYAR Avargal, B.A.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
1. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur, Bar.-at-Law.	Madura and Trichinopoly *cum* Srirangam, Muhammadan Urban.
2. Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur.	Madras City, Muhammadan Urban.
3. Abdul Hye Sahib Bahadur, K.	Ceded Districts, Muhammadan Rural.
4. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur S. K.	North Arcot *cum* Chingleput, Muhammadan Rural.
5. Abdul Wahab Sahib Bahadur, Munshi.	Northern Circars, Muhammadan Rural.
6. Adinarayana Chettiyar, Bar.-at-Law, T.	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
7. Anjaneyulu, P.	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
8. Appavu Chettiyar, C. D. ...	Salem, N.-M. Rural.
9. Ari Gowder, H. B.	The Nilgiris, N.-M. Rural.
10. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. (*Minister*).	Central Districts (Indian Christian).
11. Arpudaswami Udayar, S. ...	Tanjore and Trichinopoly *cum* Madura (Christian).
12. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.	Central Districts, Muhammadan Rural.
13. Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, C.I.E., C.B.E., Khan Bahadur Muhammad.	NOMINATED.
14. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu, P. ...	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
15. Bhanoji Rao, A. V.	Vizagapatam City, N.-M. Urban.
16. Bheemayya, J.	NOMINATED.
17. Biswanath Das Mahasayo, Sriman.	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
18. Boag, I.C.S., G. T.	NOMINATED.
19. Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar, T. K.	Tinnevelly, N.-M. Rural.
20. Congreve, C. R. T.	Madras Planters—Planting.
21. Cotterell, C.I.E., I.C.S., C. B.	NOMINATED.
22. Davis, J. A.	Anglo-Indian.
23. Dorai Raja, S.	NOMINATED.
24. Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Sahib S.	Salem, N.-M. Rural.
25. Ethirajulu Nayudu, Diwan Bahadur P. C.	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
26. Gangadhara Siva, M. V. ...	NOMINATED.
27. Gopala Menon, C.	Southern India Chamber of Commerce.
28. Govindaraja Mudaliyar, C. S. ...	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
29. Guruswami, Rao Sahib L. C. ...	NOMINATED.
30. Hall, O.B.E., I.C.S., J. F. ...	NOMINATED.
31. Hampayya, Rai Sahib M. ...	NOMINATED.
32. Harisarvottama Rao, G. ...	Kurnool, N.-M. Rural.
33. John, V. Ch.	Northern Districts (Indian Christian).
34. Kaleswara Rao, Ayyadevara ...	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency
35. Kameswara Rao Nayudu, Varada.	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
36. Karant, K. R.	South Kanara, N.-M. Rural.
37. Kenneth Kay	Madras Chamber of Commerce.
38. Khadir Mohidin Sahib Bahadur, Muhammad.	East Coast, Muhammadan Rural.
39. Koti Reddi, Bar.-at-Law, K. ...	Cuddapah, N.-M. Rural.
40. Krishnan, K.	NOMINATED.
41. Krishnan Nayar, Diwan Bahadur M.	Malabar, N.-M. Rural.
42. Krishnaswami Nayakar, K. ...	Chingleput, N.-M. Rural.
43. Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri (Raja Velugoti Sarvagnya Kumara Krishnayachendra Bahadur Varu).	Nellore, N.-M. Rural.
44. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.	Tinnevelly, N.-M. Rural.
45. Kuppuswami, J.	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
46. MacDougall, *Kt.*, Sir Alexander.	European.
47. Madhavan Nayar, K.	Malabar, N.-M. Rural.
48. Mallayya, B. S.	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
49. Mannikkavelu Nayakar, M. A.	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
50. Marjoribanks, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. N. E.	EX OFFICIO.
51. Marudavanam Pillai, C. ...	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
52. Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S. Muhammad.	Madura *cum* Trichinopoly, Muhammadan Rural.
53. Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, T. M....	Malabar, Muhammadan Rural.
54. Moir, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. T. E.	EX OFFICIO.
55. Muniswami Nayudu, Rao Bahadur B.	Chittoor N.-M. Rural.
56. Muniswami Pillai, V. I. ...	NOMINATED.
57. Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara *alias* Kumaran Raman.	West Coast Landholders.
58. Murugappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur A. M. M.	Ramnad, N.-M. Rural.
59. Muthia Mudaliyar, S.	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
60. Muthulakshmi Ammal, Dr. (Mrs.).	NOMINATED.
61. Muthuranga Mudaliyar, C. N.	Chingleput, N.-M. Rural.
62. Nagan Gowda, R.	NOMINATED.
63. Nanjappah Bahadur, M. V. O., Subadar Major S. A.	NOMINATED.
64. Narasimha Raju, Rao Bahadur C. V. S. (*President*).	Vizagapatam, N.-M. Rural.
65. Narayana Raju, Dandu ...	Godavari West, N.-M. Rural.
66 Narayana Rao, Mothay ...	Godavari West, N.-M. Rural.
67. Narayana Reddi, Battini ...	Anantapur, N.-M. Rural.
68. Narayana Chettiyar, Al. Ar. ...	Nattukkottai Nagarathars' Association.
69 Narayanan Nambudiripad, Rao Bahadur O. M.	NOMINATED.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
70. Narayanaswami Pillai, T. M. ...	Trichinopoly, N.-M. Rural.
71. Obi Reddi, Chinnapalamada ...	Anantapur, N.-M. Rural.
72. Pandrang Rao, I.C.S., V. ...	NOMINATED.
73. Parasurama Rao Pantulu, Arcot.	Cuddapah, N.-M. Rural.
74. Parthasarathi Ayyangar, C R..	Chittoor, N.-M. Rural.
75. Patro, *Kt.*, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
76. Premayya, G.	NOMINATED.
77. Raja, Rao Bahadur M. C. ...	NOMINATED.
78. Raja of Jeypore (Maharaja Sri Ramachandra Deo).	NOMINATED.
79. Raja of Panagal, K.C.I.E. (Sir P. Ramarayaningar).	North Central Landholders.
80. Raja of Ramnad (Bhaskara Rajarajeswara Setupathi *alias* Muthuramalinga Setupathi).	South Central Landholders.
81. Rajan, P. T.	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
82. Ramachandra Padayachi, K. ...	South Arcot N.-M. Rural
83. Ramachandra Reddi, B. ...	Nellore, N.-M. Rural.
84. Ramanath Goenka	NOMINATED.
85. Ramasomayajulu, Chavali ...	Cocanada City, N.-M. Urban.
86. Ramaswami Ayyar, K.C.I.E., The hon. Sir C. P.	EX OFFICIO.
87. Ramaswami Ayyar, U. ...	Trichinopoly *cum* Srirangam, N.-M Urban.
88. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, The hon. Mr. A. (*Minister*).	Bellary, N.-M. Rural.
89. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur, C. S.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
90. Sahajanandam, Swami	NOMINATED.
91. Saldanha, J. A.	West Coast, Indian Christian.
92. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti ...	Madras, N.-M. Urban.
93. Sarabha Reddi, K.	Kurnool, N.-M. Rural.
94. Satyamurti, S.	Madras University.
95. Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Mahmud.	South Kanara, Muhammadan Rural.
96. Seturatnam Ayyar, M. R. ...	Trichinopoly, N.-M. Rural.
97. Shetty, A. B.	South Kanara, N.-M. Rural.
98. Sitarama Reddi, Rao Bahadur K.	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
99. Siva Raj, B.A., B.L., N.	NOMINATED.
100. Siva Rao, P.	Bellary, N.-M. Rural.
101. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, K. S.	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
102. Slater, C.I.E., I.C.S., S. H. ...	NOMINATED.
103. Smith, J. Mackenzie	Madras Trades Association.
104. Soundara Pandia Nadar, W. P. A.	NOMINATED.
105. Srinivasa Ayyangar, R. ...	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
106. Srinivasa Ayyangar, T. C. ...	Ramnad, N.-M. Rural.
107. Srinivasan, Rao Sahib R. ...	NOMINATED.
108. Subbarayan, The hon. Dr. P. (Zamindar of Kumaramangalam) (*Minister*).	South Central Landholders.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
109. Subrahmanya Moopanar, S. ...	NOMINATED.
110. Subrahmanya Pillai, Chavadi K.	Tinnevelly *cum* Palamcottah, N.-M. Urban.
111. Sundaramurti Pillai, Rao Sahib P. V. S.	NOMINATED.
112. Swami, Bar.-at-Law, K. V. R.	East Godavari, N.-M. Rural.
113. Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur, Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib.	Ramnad *cum* Tinnevelly, Muhammadan Rural.
114. Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Syed ...	Tanjore, Muhammadan Rural.
115. Thomas, Daniel	Ramnad *cum* Tinnevelly, Indian Christian.
116. Tulasiram, L. K.	Madura City, N.-M. Urban.
117. Tyler, C.I.E., I.C.S., H. H. F. M.	NOMINATED.
118. Uppi Sahib Bahadur, K. ...	Malabar, Muhammadan.
119. Usman Sahib Bahadur, The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad.	EX OFFICIO.
120. Vanavudia Goundar, S. V. ...	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
121. Venkatapati Razu, P. C. ...	Vizagapatam, N.-M. Rural.
122. Venkatarama Ayyar, K. R. ...	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
123. Venkatarama Sastriyar, C.I.E., T. R. (*Advocate-General*).	NOMINATED.
124. Venkataramana Ayyangar, C. V.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
125. Venkatarangam Nayudu, C. ...	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
126. Venkataratnam, B.	East Godavari, N.-M. Rural.
127. Venkiah, S.	NOMINATED.
128. Wood, C. E.	Madras Chamber of Commerce.
129. Zamindar of Gollapalli (Srimannarayana Appa Rao Bahadur Garu, Meka).	Northern Landholders, II.
130. Zamindar of Kallikota (Sri Ramachandra Mardaraja Deo).	Northern Landholders, I.
131. Zamindar of Mirzapuram (Mirzapuram Raja Garu alias Venkataramayya Appa Rao Bahadur Garu).	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.
132. Zamindar of Seithur (Vadamalai Tiruvanatha Sevuga Pandiya Tevar Avargal).	Madura, N.-M. Rural.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Official Report.

Tuesday, the 14th December 1926.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 o'clock.

I

TEMPORARY PRESIDENT.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

The Chairman, appointed by His Excellency the Governor under rule 3 (2) of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, Mr. Charles Edgar Wood, took his oath of allegiance in front of the Secretary and after bowing to the empty chair, took his seat on it.

* The hon. the Chairman :—" Hon. Members will be aware that I have been appointed by His Excellency the Governor to preside over this Council until a President has been duly elected by the Council and until the approval of His Excellency the Governor to the election has been announced to the Council.

" I have to inform hon. Members that the first business to be carried out at this meeting is to make the oath required by rule 24 of the Madras Electoral Rules. Under that rule every person who is elected or nominated to be a Member of the Council has, before taking his seat, to make, at a meeting of the Council, an oath or affirmation of allegiance in the prescribed form.

" After making the oath, hon. Members will please take their seats in the Council. I must explain that except for Members of Government and the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, no seats have yet been reserved. The President who is to be elected to-day will, no doubt, in due course, in consultation with the leaders of the parties concerned, arrange, under Standing Order 25, the allocation of seats.

" The hon. Members of the Executive Council being ex-officio Members of the Council and neither elected nor nominated as Members thereof, are *not* required to take the oath under this rule. In regard to elected and nominated Members, I propose to call first upon the hon. the Ministers to make the oath, then the Leader of the Opposition Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju, then the ex-Ministers, and then the other hon. Members. Forms of the oath or affirmation to be taken by the hon. Members will be handed to them by the Secretary as they approach his table for the purpose of making the oath.

" The Secretary will now call the names of those who will take the oath."

II

NEW MEMBERS.

The following Members were sworn in :—

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan.

The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju.

Sir P. Ramarayaningar.

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro.

* The hon. the Chairman :—" In order to carry out the work as expeditiously as possible, I will now ask hon. Members to come up to the Secretary's desk in single file and make the oath. I will call each block separately."

The following Members then made the oath :—

Mr. Abbas Ali Khan Sahib.
Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib.
Mr. Abdul Hye Sahib.
Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur.
Mr. Munshi Abdul Wahab Sahib.
Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
Mr. P. Anjaneyulu.
Mr. Meka Srimannarayana Apparao Bahadur, Zamindar of Gollapalli.
Mr. C. D. Appavu Chettiyar.
Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder.
Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib.
Khan Bahadur Muhammad Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu.
Mr. A. V. Bhanoji Rao.
Mr. J. Bheemiah.
Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.
Mr. G. T. Boag.
Mr. T. K. Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar.
Mr. C. B. Cotterell.
Mr. J. A. Davis
Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar.
Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
Mr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva.
Mr. C. Gopala Menon.
Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
Mr. L. C. Guruswami.
Mr. J. F. Hall.
Rai Sahib M. Hampayya.
Mr. G. Harisarvothama Rao.
Mr. V. Ch. John.
Mr. Ayyadevara Kaleswara Rao.
Mr. Varada Kameswara Rao Nayudu.
Mr. K. R. Karant.
Mr. Kenneth Kay.
Mr. K. Krishnan.
Mr. K. Koti Reddi.
Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
Mr. K. Krishnaswami Nayakar.
Mr. Kumaran Raman *alias* Kavalappara Moopil Nayar.
Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar.
Mr. J. Kuppuswami.
Sir Alexander MacDougall, *Kt.*
Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar.
Dr. B. S. Mallayya.
Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
Mr. C. Marudavanam Pillai.
Mirjapuram Raja *alias* Venkataramayya Appa Rao Bahadur.
Mr. T. M. Moidu Sahib.
Mr. Muhammad Khadir Mohidin Sahib.
Mr. K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar
Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.
Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
Diwan Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chettiyar.
Mr. S. Muthayya Mudaliyar.
Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammal.
Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
Mr. R. Nagan Gowda.
Subadar Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur.
Mr. Al. Ar. Narayanan Chettiyar.
Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai.
Mr. Dandu Narayana Raju.
Mr. Battini Narayana Reddi.
Mr. Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib Syed Ibrahim Sahib.
Mr. C. Obi Reddi.
Mr. V. Pandrang Row.
Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar.
Mr. A. Parasurama Rao Pantulu.
Mr. G. Premayya.
Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja.
Mr. P. T. Rajan.
Mr. K. Ramachandra Padayachi.
Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi.
Mr. Ramanatha Goenka.
Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu.
Mr. U. Ramaswami Ayyar.
Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar.
Swami Sahajanandam.
Mr. J. A. Saldanha.
Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi.
Mr. S. Satyamurti.
Mr. Muhammad S'chamnad Sahib.
Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
Mr. Sevuga Pandia Thevar, Zamindar, Vadamalai Tiruvanatha.
Mr. A. B. Shetty.
Mr. K. Sitarama Reddi.
Mr. N. Siva Raj.

Mr. P. Siva Rao.
Mr. K. S. Sivasubramania Ayyar.
Mr. S. H. Slater.
Mr. J. Mackenzie Smith.
Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandia Nadar.
Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
Mr. S. M. Subramania Moopanar
Mr. Chavadi K. Subramania Pillai.
Mr. K. V. R. Swami.
Mr. Syed Tajudin Sahib.
Mr. Daniel Thomas.
Mr. L. K. Tulasiram.
Mr. H. H. F. M. Tyler.
Mr. K. Uppi Sahib.
Mr. S. V. Vanavudia Gounder.
Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
Kumararaja of Venkatagiri, Sri Raja Velugoti Sarvagnya Kumara Krishnayachendra Bahadur.
Mr. P. C. Venkatapathi Raju.
Mr. B. Venkataratnam.
Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastriyar.
Mr C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
Mr. C. Venkatarangam Nayudu.
Mr. S. Venkiah.

III
ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

* The hon. the CHAIRMAN :—" We will now proceed to the next business of the Council, which is the election of the President. Under rule 5-A (3) of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, I have now to read out to the Council the names of members who have been duly nominated together with those of their proposers and seconders. I now read the names accordingly. 11-45 a.m.

Member nominated.	Proposer.	Seconder.
M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar Avargal.	Mr. P. T. Rajan	Mr. T. K. Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju Garu.	The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.	The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
	Mr. B. Venkataratnam	Mr. J. A. Saldanha.
	,, S. Satyamurti	,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
	,, P. C. Venkatapathi Raju ..	,, D. Narayana Raju.
	Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.	,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
	Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar ..	,, A. Kaleswara Rao.

" As Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar has since written to the Secretary that he wishes his nomination to be considered as cancelled, I think it will not be the desire of the House to go through the formality of an election.

" In accordance with the unanimous desire of the House, I declare Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju elected. (Cheers.)

" Mr. Narasimha Raju's name will now be sent to His Excellency the Governor for approval, under section 72-C of the Government of India Act."

IV
ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

* The hon. the CHAIRMAN :—" The House will now proceed to elect a Deputy President. Under Standing Order No. 3 of the Madras Legislative Council, every member who wishes to propose a member for election as Deputy President must ascertain previously that the member is willing to serve, if elected, and to hand to the President a notice containing the name of the member he desires to propose signed by himself and some other member as seconder. I accordingly fix 12-15 p.m. as the latest hour for the handing in to the President of notices containing the names of members nominated for the office of Deputy President, and the election will take place as soon as possible thereafter."

[14th December 1926

Mr. ABBAS ALI :—" Mr. President, I propose—

'*that the election of the Deputy President be allowed to stand over till we meet next, some time in January*'."

Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—" Mr. Chairman, I second that proposition."

* The hon. the CHAIRMAN :—" The question before the House is—

'*that the election of the Deputy President be allowed to stand over until the next meeting of the Council*'."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I say one word, Sir? If it be the desire of my hon. Colleagues of this Council that this question should really be postponed to the next meeting of the Council, certainly, I have no desire to stand in their way. But I think, Sir, that probably there is no reason for adjourning the consideration of this item of the business to the next meeting. I do not know at the present moment who the possible and probable candidates for the Deputy President's office are or will be hereafter. In any case, I think it will only be prolonging the anxiety of intending candidates. (Laughter.) If we postpone the consideration of this business to the next meeting of the Council, it seems to me, Sir, that the chances are that the number of candidates that may be aspiring to this particular office, a very responsible office, will, instead of diminishing, be only increasing."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" They may also withdraw, like you."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Oh, yes. Quite possible. Instead of that probability, the other probability exists to a larger extent. In any case, I do not see that there is much necessity for postponing the consideration of this item of business to the next meeting. But however, I do not feel very strongly on it. I have only expressed my opinion."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. Chairman, if I may say so, some of the arguments emanating from the hon. Member who spoke last are rather in favour of postponement. Undoubtedly, there are many candidates, and it is just possible that the anxiety of those candidates may be augmented instead of being lessened with the progress of time. At the same time, however, it cannot be forgotten that some of the candidates may withdraw, and adjustments may be possible by which the controversy may be limited, and, if there is no unanimity achieved, at least the range of selection might be much narrower than at present I am speaking for a large number of hon. Members with whom I have discussed this matter, and it is because that it is generally felt that the gaining of further time will be an advantage, from that point of view, that I have great pleasure in supporting this motion."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTHAMA RAO :—" Mr. Chairman, I feel that the suggestion that this business may be postponed should find favour with my hon. Colleagues. I speak as a Member just entering the House; we are not quite acquainted with one another in this House, and if we have more time, we can certainly choose in a more effective manner than we may do to-day in a hurry. There is no necessity for haste in the matter because the President is there and we can go on with the business of the House. I therefore have the greatest pleasure in supporting the motion that has been made."

The motion for the adjournment of the item of business *re* election of the Deputy President was put and carried.

V

ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY'S APPROVAL OF ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE BY THE PRESIDENT-ELECT.

* The hon. the CHAIRMAN :—"I now have the honour to announce that His Excellency has approved the election of Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju as President of this Council. (Loud applause.)

"It only remains for me to tender to the hon. Mr. Narasimha Raju my sincere congratulations, and I call upon him to occupy the Presidential Chair." (Loud cheers.)

* The hon. Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU (*before taking the Chair*) :—"I tender my most grateful acknowledgment to the House for the high honour done me in placing me in this Chair, and I assure the House of my complete devotion to its service."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, as the titular Leader of this House, it is my pleasure and my privilege to welcome you on this occasion when by a unanimous vote of this House you have been appointed to the exalted office of President of the Legislative Council. It is not my purpose now to detail the manifold and responsible duties that devolve upon you in your new capacity. No doubt, you have many duties to perform, such as maintaining order, construing the rules of debate, and seeing to it that the utmost latitude and freedom of expression are permitted consistently with the decorum and propriety which are and should be the characteristics of this House. These are high and exalted duties; but higher and more exalted than every one of these duties is your duty to be perfectly impartial and just, as between party and party, as between Member and Member of this House. The Speaker, like the King, is above all parties. And it is a great tribute to the consciousness which the Members of this House have of your impartiality and the confidence that they have reposed in your sense of justice that you have been called upon to occupy this Chair. Let me assure you that on the part of every one in this House there will be a continuous and strenuous endeavour to lighten your task. We confidently hope that on your part, you will maintain the great traditions of this office, traditions established for Madras by no less a person than that versatile man, the hon. Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar and worthily maintained by his successors. In full confidence, therefore, in your integrity and impartiality, and in that wisdom, discretion and decorum of which Queen Elizabeth spoke in summoning her first Speaker, we welcome you and it is with much pleasure that we tender you our congratulations on the high honour you have attained." (Loud applause.) 12 noon.

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Mr. President, as a person on whom His Excellency has thought fit to confer the honour of forming the new Ministry, it is my great pleasure and privilege to congratulate you on this occasion of your taking the Chair of this House. It is a great responsibility to which you have been called, and as my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House, pointed out, it is a responsibility which is fraught with great dangers, perhaps, and I am sure, Sir, that you will rise equal to the occasion and place yourself above party and in contradistinction to man and man and do what is necessary to keep order in this House, so that the tradition which my hon. Friend, the Leader of this House, talked of may be carried out; and when the time comes for the election of a new President, I am sure one and all will feel that the hon. Mr. Narasimha Raju—under whose leadership

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I have had the honour and privilege to serve in the last Council when he was the Leader of the Independent Nationalists (Hear, hear)—is the fit and proper person to be again elected as the President of this Council." (Cheers.)

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Mr. President, Sir, this is, I believe, the first time in the history of Reformed Legislatures in India when a president of a council has been elected unopposed. I am glad it has been given to the Madras Legislative Council to set up this healthy and happy precedent. I am glad that this unique honour has been achieved by a Swarajist. Personally, I am glad that the distinction has come to you.

" Infant as this Council is, you are its fourth President and its third elected President. Yours is a high, distinguished and responsible office. Traditions have not yet grown around it such as have made the Speaker's place in the House of Commons the envy and admiration of Parliamentarians all over the world. Yours will be the privilege of building up those traditions. I know you can and you will. You will thus prove that a Congressman is equal to any task that may be assigned to him. (Hear, hear.)

" Your chair is no bed of roses. Unlike in other countries, you preside over a conglomerate house consisting of nominated officials, nominated non-officials and elected members elected by communal and non-communal electorates (laughter) and divided into three or four parties. To hold the scales even among these various groups, to uphold the dignity and authority of this House and to make it the vehicle of public opinion and not a body to register the decrees of the Executive, are your most difficult tasks. I am glad they will be discharged by you, for I know they will be discharged well.

" I have mentioned your difficulties but they are small compared with some of the difficulties which some Speakers of the House of Commons in England in the 17th century had to face. I do not expect you are likely to be kept down in your chair by being forced by any members of the House in order to transact some business as the Speaker of the English House of Commons was kept in his chair in March 1629, when the famous resolutions called Elliot resolutions were passed. Nor is it likely that the Governor will raid this House to find me or other inconvenient members of this House as Charles I did in 1642, but I can assure the House that if any such thing happens, you will say as Speaker Lenthall said, 'The Speaker of the House of Commons has neither eyes to see, nor ears to hear, nor tongue to speak but as the House is pleased to direct.' In all humility, may I say that you can have no guide to your conduct in the chair better than these words.

" On behalf of the Congress party I offer you our warm congratulations and assure you of our hearty co-operation in the discharge of your arduous duties. Speaking on the occasion of the retirement of your predecessor, Sir P. Rajagopalachari, from the chair on the 15th December 1923, I said :

'I know this that the time will soon come however much our friends here may laugh at the prospect that for the 9 Swarajists we are here to-day there will be 90. Sir, when that time comes I ask for no more than this, that we should have in that chair a man who will bring to bear on the discharge of his duties the same impartiality of conduct and the same independence of judgment which you have brought to bear upon them.'

" I am happy that although we are not 90 yet, we are at least 45, and my desire to have a proper man in the chair at that time has been more than fulfilled by your election to that office. (Loud cheers.)

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"I desire to conclude on a personal note. Sir, you led 28 members out of this Council early last year in pursuance of the mandate of the Indian National Congress. Among those who remained, there were some who laughed at our walk-out and predicted dire consequences for us in the election. I regret that they are not here to-day. (Laughter.) I am thankful that we have come back with our numbers considerably increased. Not only that, Sir, but, you who led the walk-out have come back and more, the confidence of the House in you is such that when we put you forward as a candidate for the high office of the Presidential Chair nobody opposes you. Once more I offer you the very hearty and sincere congratulations of the Congress party and an assurance of our hearty co-operation."

The RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Mr. President, let me add my quota of congratulations on this occasion on your having been elected as President of this Council. I have known you, Sir, for a long time, and I have known you as the Leader of the Opposition. In discharging your duties as the Leader of the Opposition you were always dignified, and when you have to discharge your duties as President of this Council you will, I dare say, be similarly dignified. This Council during the last six years has had the privilege of having some of the most distinguished men as its Presidents. They have established excellent traditions. I hope and trust, Sir, you will be able to maintain those traditions and prove a worthy President. I wish you a brilliant career." (Cheers.)

Sir ALEXANDER MACDOUGALL :—" On behalf of the European Members of this House, I offer you our hearty and sincere congratulations. I have sat in three Councils and known you as a very high and esteemed Member of the House. I am sure you would carry on the traditions of this House and of the Chair you occupy so worthily."

* Mr. N. SIVA RAJ :—" On behalf of the depressed class members of this Council I offer the heartiest congratulations on your elevation to the Presidential Chair. In doing so, I wish to say that your success in that you have been unanimously elected is not the success of the Swarajya Party as the Member for the University observed, but it is the success of your character and the success of your personality."

* Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—" Mr. President, on behalf of the Anglo-Indian community you will allow me to offer you our sincere congratulations. I associate myself with all that the previous speakers have said, particularly with what Sir Alexander MacDougall has just said. During my term in the previous Council I have often been to you for advice and your advice was always sound and greatly appreciated by me. Once again, on behalf of my community let me tell you that we have the utmost confidence in you, and I offer you my sincere congratulations on behalf of my community."

* Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" On behalf of the Indian Christian community, I most heartily associate myself with the sentiments which the hon. the Leader of the House and the other previous speakers had given expression to. It was the privilege of the community I represent to have had two distinguished members of the Council in that high and exalted office to which you have been unanimously elected, and they have established excellent traditions. I have known you for the past six years. I have seen your work, I have admired your character and the way in which you have been discharging your duties in this Council. I am sure you will fill the Chair with great dignity and maintain the traditions so well established by your predecessors."

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12-15 p.m. *BASHEER AHMED SAYEED SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, on behalf of my community, viz., the Muslim community, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your elevation to the Chair. It has been our pleasure, and our fortune I should think, that you have been elected the President of this Council. We hope under your Chairmanship we shall be led to the goal which we are all looking forward to and that ere long we shall attain our cherished goal of independence within or without the British Empire. I therefore once again congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the Presidentship."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—"Sir, I join in the chorus of congratulations which have been offered to you on your elevation to the Chair. I have always admired your leadership which gave equal treatment to all the communities which accepted your lead and that is the most essential qualification required for the position which you now occupy by the unanimous vote of the House. I hope your followers will now maintain that discipline which you maintained. With these few words, I congratulate you once again on behalf of the Muslim community."

* Mrs. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—"Sir, on behalf of the women of this Presidency, I have great pleasure in congratulating you on the very lofty position that has been assigned to you by the unanimous vote of this House. I may tell you, Sir, I am the only lady member in this assembly, even though women form more than one-half of the population. You know, Sir, that our position in society is still backward and we have many grievances, one of which is that only two women out of every one hundred are able to read and write.

"I am here to represent them. I am sure, Sir, you will fight for our rights as even the great Raja Ram Mohan Roy, the avatar, the father of Modern India, that great political and social reformer, fought for us and secured for us some concessions. So, you will side with me in all my attempts to ameliorate the condition of my sisters, realizing that even as our forefathers realized thousands of years before—when the other nations of the world were enveloped in darkness—that no country or nation will prosper without the active support or co-operation of its women. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. B. VENKATARATNAM :—"అధ్యక్షా, తాము ఏకగ్రీవముగా అగ్రాసనాధిపతిగా నెన్నుకొనబడినందుకు నా సంతోషమును తెలుపుచూ అభినందించుచున్నాడను.

"తాము మాకు నాయకులుగానుండలేదనే కొంత కొఱతయుండినను తమకు కలిగిన పదవికి మా అపరిమిత సంతోషము తెలియపరుచుకొనుచున్నాడను. మీ పూర్వీకులచేత స్థాపింపబడిన వాడుకలే గాక తామున్ను నిష్పక్షపాతమైన క్రొత్త సూత్రములను యింగ్లీషు భాష తెలియని నాబోటి సభ్యుల కనుకూలార్థము స్థాపించుదురని మిక్కిలి కోరుచు పునరభినందనము చేయుచు విరమించుకొనుచున్నాడను."

*Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"Sir, as one coming from the tail-end of the Presidency, I wish to add my voice to the chorus of tributes that has gone up to you from all sides of the House. Further, Sir, on behalf of the members who are new to this House—and there are a good many of us—I would make an appeal to you. We are unacquainted with the customs and usages of this House, and it is quite likely that we may at times transgress the rules unknowingly. We hope and trust that you will then extend your indulgence to us and be to our virtues very kind and to our faults more than a little blind. And even when you do feel that you ought to admonish us,

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I trust you will do it with such infinite grace that we may feel that you are scourging us for our own good. It is also quite likely, Sir, that the new Members would feel anxious and eager to catch your eye and make due contributions to the debates here so that the electorate which is watching us may think that we have justified the choice made by them. I understand that it is the practice in the House of Commons to give precedence to new Members. I hope that it will be done here, especially in the case of the back-benchers. I am glad you have been unanimously elected to the Chair, and in this respect we have followed the convention established by the Mother of Parliaments. May I hope that by your impartial conduct in the Chair you will secure the continued confidence and goodwill of all sides of the House, so that, when this Council is dissolved, the electorate may return you unopposed to the next Council and elect you again to the Chair without a contest? It is regrettable that, except in the case of the Assembly President and the President of the Punjab Legislative Council, in no other place the President of the Council has been returned unopposed. We must establish the convention set up in western parliaments and I do hope, Sir, that you will come uncontested to the next Council as well as to this office. In this hope, once again I join the previous speakers who have offered you their congratulations."

* Mr. M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Mr. President, it is a great pleasure to me that you have been elected to the Presidentship which office you so fittingly occupy by the unanimous verdict of the House. Sir, we were unwilling to lose your leadership of our party to which you have endeared yourself, but considering the exalted nature of the Presidential Chair we agreed to lend your services. I hope you will be a zealous guardian of the best traditions and privileges of this House. With these words, I wish you all success in your new career."

* Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" I have great pleasure in congratulating you on the unique honour bestowed on you as our worthy President. Though this House does not possess any large number of representatives of the labour party, I myself being a representative of the labouring and the trading classes, I have great pleasure in congratulating you. I hope in the new constitution which will be conferred upon us, the practice will be extended and the Provincial Councils will contain representatives of the mill labourers, spinners and people in the railway employ and that one of them will congratulate you in future."

Mr. K. KRISHNASWAMI NAYAKAR :—" அக்கிராசனர் அவர்களே! தாங்கள் இந்த சபைத்தலைவராய் ஏகமனதாய்த் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டதைப்பற்றி நான் மிகவும் சந்தோஷிக்கிறேன். காங்கிரஸ் கட்சியைச் சேர்ந்த தங்களை மற்ற கட்சியினரும் தேர்ந்தெடுத்ததைப்பற்றி நான் அவர்களுக்கு நன்றி பாராட்டுகிறேன். தாங்கள் சட்டசபைக்கூட்டங்களை பட்சபாதமின்றி நடத்துவதுடன் என்னைப்போல் தமிழில் பேசுகிறவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய ஆதரவு கொடுப்பீர்களென்று நம்புகிறேன்."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I wish to convey my deep sense of gratitude and thankfulness for the kind sentiments expressed by the various speakers on this occasion. I am glad that this Council has started the precedent of having uncontested elections for the Presidential Chair—I believe, the first in any legislature in India. After about 14 years of acquaintance with Council work, I have consented to occupy the Presidential Chair, leaving

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my party which has come out very successful in the elections. I thought it was necessary that my party should have the honour of occupying the Presidential Chair and thus demonstrate its fitness for holding high offices. With that great desire, I stood as a candidate and I am glad that all sections of the House have elected me unanimously and thus shown their confidence in me. I have been in the Opposition benches all the fourteen years I have been in the Council and I had to consider twice before I decided to come to this place of complete neutrality. I know the responsible duties that devolve upon the President, the first and foremost being that he shall be of no party, but shall belong to all the parties in the House. I feel thankful for the great confidence reposed in me by this House and I shall try my level best to discharge my duties to the entire satisfaction of this House.

12-30 p.m. "And I do hope that there will be co-operation from all sections of this House while I am discharging my duties as President of the House. I know, Sir, that two Governors of this Province were in the presidential chair. When I first entered the House I had the pleasure of seeing Lord Pentland summing up the proceedings with great ability before he put the question to the House. With equal ability Lord Willingdon was doing it. Now-a-days such a privilege is not to be enjoyed by the President. Next to them our distinguished countryman, Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar, a gentleman of versatile ability, was in the chair and he has attained great reputation all over India as having been the most successful President in the Chair. Next to him came two eminent Indians, the late Diwan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai and Mr. M. Ratnaswami who acquitted themselves well in the discharge of their duties to the satisfaction of the various sections of the House. Great men have preceded me and it will be my sincere endeavour to follow their examples, and to give you every satisfaction."

VI

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS FOR 1926-27.

*The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—"Mr. President, with your permission I beg to move the first motion which stands in my name on the agenda paper, viz. :—

'*that with a view to the constitution of a committee on Public Accounts for the year* 1926–27, *this Council do proceed on a date to be fixed by the hon. the President to elect seven members to be members of the said committee.*'

"Hon. Members are aware that under rule 33 (1) of the Legislative Council Rules a Public Accounts Committee shall be constituted for the purpose of dealing with the audit and appropriation accounts of the Province and such other matters as the Finance Department may refer to that committee. It will also be within the recollection of those hon. Members who were also members of the late Council that on the 18th March last with reference to the insignificant amount of business to be placed before the Public Accounts Committee at that time and also with reference to the fact that later in the year there would be a general election and that a new Council would come into existence, it was unanimously agreed that the election of members to the Public Accounts Committee for the current financial year should be postponed. Circumstances have altered and there is now a

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considerable amount of minor business arising out of the previous audit and appropriation accounts which has to be placed before the Public Accounts Committee and ere long, the audit and appropriation accounts for the year 1925–26 will also have to be placed before that Committee. I hope, Sir, that the House will accept the motion which I now formally move."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I beg to second the motion."

The motion was put to the House and carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I fix 2 p.m. to-day as the time by which nominations are to be put in for the election of members to the Public Accounts Committee. In case the number nominated is equal to the number to be elected there will be no balloting. In case the number nominated exceeds that required, there will be balloting and the balloting will begin at 2–30 p.m. and close at 3."

VII

FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR 1926-27

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" Mr. President, with your permission I move the second motion which stands in my name on the agenda paper, viz. :—

' *That in accordance with resolution No. 17, passed at the meeting of the Council on 1st April 1921 regarding the constitution of a Finance Committee this Council do proceed on a date to be fixed by the hon. the President to elect six persons to be members of the Finance Committee for the remainder of the year 1926–27.*'

" It will also be within the recollection of the Members of the late Council that on the same day on which it was agreed that the constitution of the Public Accounts Committee should be postponed it was agreed that the then Finance Committee should continue to exercise its functions. That Committee has of course with the dissolution of the late Council ceased to function and it is necessary to constitute a Finance Committee to function for the rest of the current financial year. I may say that there is of course a great deal of important business in connexion with the budget for the coming year which has to be placed before the Finance Committee before we can settle and consolidate our budget proposals for that year. I trust therefore that the Council will also accept this motion."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I beg to second the motion."

The motion was put to the House and carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I fix 2 p.m. to-day as the latest time for putting in nominations and in case the number nominated is equal to the number of persons to be elected there will be no balloting. Otherwise balloting will commence at 2–30 p.m. and continue till 3."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I want to know whether voting will take place in the ordinary way or whether voting is to be by the single transferable vote by proportional representation."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" In both the cases, voting will be by proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote."

VIII

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE MALABAR TENANCY BILL.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that His Excellency the Governor has withheld his assent to the Malabar Tenancy Bill passed by the Council on 2nd September 1926 and the press communiqué issued has been placed on the table of the House.

" As I have already mentioned, nominations and balloting for the Finance and Public Accounts Committees will take place to-day and hon. Members will be present till balloting is over. The result of the election will be notified in due course. I fix that nomination papers should be delivered to the Secretary before 2 p.m. The Secretary will be in his office and will receive the nomination papers."

The House then adjourned at 12-40 p.m. to meet again at 11 a.m. on 24th January 1927.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Council.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 24th January 1927.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU Garu) in the chair.

PRESENT:

Ramaswami Ayyar, The hon. Sir C. P.
Marjoribanks, The hon. Mr. N. E.
Usman Sahib Bahadur, The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Moir, The hon. Mr. T. E.
Subbarayan, The hon. Dr. P.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, The hon. Mr. A.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N.
Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur.
Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur.
Abdul Hye Sahib Bahadur, K.
Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur S. K.
Abdul Wahab Sahib Bahadur, Munshi.
Adinarayana Chettiyar, Mr. T.
Anjaneyulu, Mr. P.
Appavu Chettiyar, Mr. C. D.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.
Arpudaswami Udayar, Mr. S.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu, Mr. P.
Bheemayya, Mr. J.
Biswanath Das Mahasayo, Sriman.
Boag, Mr. G. T.
Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar, Mr. T. K.
Congreve, Mr. C. R. T.
Cotterell, Mr. C. B.
Davis, Mr. J. A.
Dorai Raja, Mr. S. N.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Sahib S.
Ethirajulu Nayudu, Diwan Bahadur P. C.
Gangadhara Siva, Mr. M. V.
Gopala Menon, Mr. C.
Govindaraja Mudaliyar, Mr. C. S.
Guruswami, Rao Sahib L. C.
Hall, Mr. J. F.
Hampayya, Rai Sahib M.
Harisarvothama Rao, Mr. G.
John, Mr. V. Ch.
Kaleswara Rao, Mr. A.
Kameswara Rao Nayudu, Mr. V.
Karant, Mr. K. R.
Kenneth Kay, Mr.
Khadir Mohidin Sahib Bahadur, Muhammad.
Koti Reddi, Mr. K.
Krishnan, Mr. K.
Krishnan Nayar, Diwan Bahadur M.
Krishnaswami Nayakar, Mr. K. V.
Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.
Kuppuswami, Mr. J.
MacDougall, Sir Alexander.
Madhavan Nayar, Mr. K.
Mallayya, Mr. B. S.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
Marudavanam Pillai, Mr. C.
Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S. Muhammad.
Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, T. M.
Muniswami Nayudu, Rao Bahadur B.
Muniswami Pillai, Mr. V. I.
Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara.
Murugappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur A. M. M.
Muttayya Mudaliyar, Mr. S.
Muthulakshmi Ammal, Dr. (Mrs.).
Muthuranga Mudaliyar, Mr. C. N.
Nagan Gowda, Mr. R.
Nanjappah Bahadur, M.V.O., Subadar-Major S. A.
Narayana Raju, Mr. D.
Narayana Rao, Mr. Mothay.
Narayanan Chettiyar, Mr. Al. Ar.
Narayanan Nambudripad, Rao Bahadur O. M.
Narayanaswami Pillai, Mr. T. M.
Obi Reddi, Mr. C.
Pandrang Row, Mr. V.
Parasurama Rao Pantulu, Mr. A.
Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Patro, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Premayya, Mr. G.
Raja of Panagal.
Raja of Ramnad.
Rajan, Mr. P. T.
Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. K.
Ramachandra Reddi, Mr. B.
Ramanath Goenka, Mr.
Ramasomayajulu, Mr. C.
Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. U.
Rathasabapathi Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C. S.
Sahajanandam Swami, Mr. A. S.
Saldanha, Mr. J. A.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Sarabha Reddi, Mr. K.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Mahmud.
Seturatnam Ayyar, Mr. M. R.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Sitarama Reddi, Rao Bahadur K.
Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, Mr. K. S.
Slater, Mr. S. H.
Smith, Mr. J. Mackenzie.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. R.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.

PRESENT—*cont.*

Srinivasan, Rao Sahib R.
Subrahmanya Moopanar, Mr. S.
• Subrahmanya Pillai, Mr. Chavadi K.
Sundaramurti Pillai, Rao Sahib P. V. S.
Swami, Mr. K. V. R.
Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur, Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib.
Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Syed.
Thomas, Mr. D.
Tireman, Mr. H.
Tulasiram, Mr. L. K.
Tyler, Mr. H. H. F. M.
Uppi Sahib Bahadur, Mr. K.
Vanavudaiya Gounder, Mr. S. V.
Venkatapati Raju, Mr. P. C.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
Venkatarama Sastri, Mr. T. R.
Venkataramana Ayyangar, Mr. C. V.
Venkatarangam Nayudu, Mr. C.
Venkiah, Mr. S.
Wood, Mr. C. E.
Zamindar of Gollapalli.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram.
Zamindar of Seithur.

I

NEW MEMBERS.

The following Members made the prescribed oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown and then took their seats :—

Mr. H. Tireman.
„ C. R. T Congreve.
M.R.Ry. S. N. Dorai Raja Avargal.
„ Rao Bahadur O. M. Narayana Nambudripad Avargal.
„ M. Narayana Rao Garu.
The Raja of Ramnad
M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib P. V. S. Sundaramurti Pillai Avargal.

[**Note.—An (*) a sterisk at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ADDRESS.

* HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR who just then arrived at the Council Chamber addressed the House as follows :—

" Mr. President and hon. Members of the Legislative Council, my first duty and pleasure is to bid a hearty welcome to the Members of the Legislative Council assembled here to-day. Many of them I have had the pleasure of addressing before, many of them are now here for the first time, but I am confident that all are assembled with the determination to fulfil those responsibilities which have been reposed on them by their electors.

" I should like, Mr. President, to offer to you my sincere congratulations on your election to the Chair by the unanimous desire of all parties of the House. In this action a worthy precedent has been set which, I hope, may long continue to be the custom in this Legislative Council. You, Mr. President, have been a Member of this Legislative Council since its inception and during a part of your life here you were the Leader of the Opposition : you are therefore well acquainted with the forms and rules of this House and I am confident that you will preside over it with the same dignity, tact and fairness which were the conspicuous qualities of your three predecessors. I am certain that the Members of this Council will assist you to maintain those traditions which in this short period have already clustered round this Chamber and have created an atmosphere which cannot but influence all those who sit here.

" The general elections that have recently been concluded have excited great interest and absorbed much public attention. In 16 constituencies of the Madras Legislative Council 20 candidates were returned unopposed,

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56 Non-Brahman Hindus, 18 Brahmans, 13 Muhammadans, 5 Indian Christians, 5 Europeans and 1 Anglo-Indian were elected. Of the candidates returned to the Council 51 were Members of the previous Council and 47 are new Members.

"The total number of registered voters in the Presidency for the Legislative Council was about 1,377,000 while in 1923 it was 1,283,923. In contested constituencies 49 per cent of the voters went to the polls, the percentage in the second general elections having been 36·26. The number of voters who exercised their franchise exceeded 50 per cent in 32 constituencies of the Legislative Council.

"Of about 116,536 female voters of the Legislative Council, there were about 106,274 registered voters in contested constituencies. 19·3 per cent of these went to the polls. This figure is satisfactory when compared with the polling of female voters in 1923 when out of 82,367 female voters in contested constituencies only 9,361 voters or 11·36 per cent went to the polls.

"Before I pass on to review briefly schemes and projects which are at present in progress in this Presidency or outline future policy, I should like to make a reference to a subject which as hon. Members are aware has figured prominently in the Press during the last few weeks: I refer to the condition of the agricultural season in Madras.

"The last two agricultural seasons were on the whole satisfactory. In the current year the season has unfortunately on the whole been unfavourable. The South-west monsoon was not wholly adequate and the North-east monsoon was short and ended abruptly, failed completely in the Circars and the Deccan and was inadequate elsewhere. As a result of these conditions in those districts which depend mainly on the South-west monsoon the earlier crops have been generally up to the average but the later crops have either failed or yielded indifferently. In those districts which depend mostly on the North-east monsoon, though there has been no general loss of dry crops, the want of adequate supplies in the irrigation tanks has occasioned in considerable areas the loss of paddy crops involving the grant of remission of the wet assessment. It is not anticipated at present that special relief measures will be necessary in more than two tracts. My officers have been and are carefully watching the situation and will take timely action for the grant of remission and the organization of special relief measures as and when necessary.

"Hon. Members of this House may like on this occasion to hear a statement of the progress which has been made with various schemes for the development of the resources of this province on which my Government are at the moment engaged.

"The Cauvery-Mettur project has made good progress in its preliminary stages. A standing camp for 5,000 coolies at Mettur, quarters for officers and staff and a protected water-supply are in course of completion. Thirty-seven miles of road from Erode to Mettur have been laid, while a survey for a broad-guage feeder line between Salem and Mettur is being conducted by the South Indian Railway Company. It is proposed to speed up construction so as to complete the project in seven years instead of ten years according to the sanctioned programme by the use of special plant and machinery and an officer who was deputed to England to obtain tenders for the plant required

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has just returned and it is hoped to instal the permanent plant before March next year. Other plant which has been ordered through the Indian Stores Department at Delhi will be in operation from April 1927 onwards. Experience of the floods of 1924 has shown the necessity for providing more effective surplus escapes and this has rendered it necessary to shift the site of the dam a mile upstream and work on the new site has been started. This will not involve any substantial change in the scheme or its progress. With a view to provide adequate irrigation facilities in the Ceded Districts a Committee appointed by the Government in 1925 to review the condition of irrigation in that area has recommended *inter alia* the construction of a reservoir across the Tungabhadra and my Government propose to summon a conference with the Board of Revenue, the Chief Engineer and the Director of Agriculture on the relative merits and utility of this scheme and those which have already been under the consideration of the Government.

" The Kattalai South Bank Canal has been completed at a cost of over Rs. 10 lakhs in order to give an assured supply to the lands in the Trichinopoly district south of the Cauvery, but it has been pointed out that this canal by itself will not yield maximum results without a bed regulator across the Cauvery. The estimates for this latter work are under the consideration of the Chief Engineer and the question will be examined by the Government shortly. The new six feet shutters in the Kistna anicut at Bezwada were of great value to the Kistna delta during the recent failure of the North-east monsoon.

" Investigations in connexion with the Pykara-Moyar, the Pinjikavi and the Papanasam hydro-electric schemes are being continued. The Government have recently received the report of the Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Merz and McLellan, London, on the estimates for the above schemes which were sent to them for scrutiny. The report is under consideration. The Government have appointed a small Committee under the Director of Industries to make local enquiries and submit a detailed report as to the probable demand for electric power and the price at which it will be taken. The enquiry is now being made and the results are expected shortly. The Government trust that the response will be encouraging and hope to be able to go on with the schemes during the next official year. The schemes are promising and the cheap power that will become available will tend to promote largely the industrial development of the Presidency. My Government have also in contemplation the entertainment of an expert with practical experience of initiating and carrying out hydro-electric schemes who will advise them as to the further steps to be taken.

" The Committee appointed to consider the amendments to the Estates Land Act has nearly completed its work, only a few more points remaining for discussion. As soon as the Committee's report is received the Government will examine its recommendations and frame such proposals as may be necessary to give effect to the changes in the Act which may be decided on. The Committee has taken a long time to discuss the proposed amendments because of the far-reaching character of the proposals that came before it and the necessity to reconcile the interests of the ryots and landholders.

" With reference to the Malabar Tenancy Bill passed by the Legislative Council the Members of the Council have already been made aware of the main considerations by which I have been guided in my decision to withhold my assent to the Bill. It is my intention to have the whole question of the

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relations between landlords and tenants in Malabar re-examined with a view to such steps being taken as in the opinion of my Government are most likely to result in proposals being formulated which would secure an equitable solution of some at least of the most urgent of the problems involved without being repugnant to equity and the principles that have to be borne in mind whenever rights of property have to be subordinated to the public welfare.

"Hon. Members of the Council are aware that the Madras Irrigation Bill as passed by the late Council was returned by me with the consent of His Excellency the Governor-General with certain amendments for further consideration by the Council. In view of the important issues involved in the Bill and of the fact that the Council had then two other important measures before it, the Council accepted the motion of a non-official Member to postpone the consideration of the Bill *sine die*. On the dissolution of the Council the Bill lapsed. It is perhaps desirable to explain to the hon. Members of the House wherein lay the principal difficulties felt in accepting the Bill as it emerged from the Council. They arose from the fact that the Bill contained provisions on which the Legislative Council laid some stress giving to the Legislative Council the power to fix by means of a Taxation Bill the rates at which water-cess should be levied from time to time—a proposal which involved a fundamental departure from the practice which had hitherto been observed in fixing water-rates—and requiring the previous specific approval of the Legislative Council to any rules framed for the administrative purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Bill. My Government feel insuperable difficulties in accepting and working these provisions. It is my desire to ascertain whether the Council will accept a less comprehensive measure which will be concerned primarily with the removal of such impediments as may at present exist to the construction of large irrigation works. 11-15 a.m.

"With regard to the Land Revenue Settlement Bill, I may tell you that in order to elicit the general opinion of this present Legislative Council and of others interested in this subject it is the intention to publish a draft Bill with Statement of Objects and Reasons. The Bill in its present form has received the approval of the Government of India.

"As regards Harbour Works at Cochin, good progress has been made. The new suction dredger 'Lord Willingdon' arrived in May 1926, worked inside the harbour for two months between May and September, when a considerable addition was made to the Vendurthi reclamation, and since November has been dredging on the bar where her output has exceeded all anticipations. At Tuticorin, the 'St. George' continued to work in the Turning Basin. At 24 feet below water a very compact hard stratum of yellow sandstone conglomerate has been encountered with which the 'St. George' can only deal very slowly. The purchase of a more powerful dredger able to break and remove this hard material more expeditiously has recently been considered both by Government and by the Port Trust Board, but no decision has yet been reached. In the meantime the 'St. George' continues to dredge down to the 24 feet level. A considerable area on Hare Island has been reclaimed and a protective embankment has been formed from Hare Island to Krangitivu and continued along the mainland to the mouth of the Uppar Odai.

"The question of the amendment of the Madras Planters Labour Act I of 1903 has for some time been under the consideration of this Government,

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The Act was passed mainly with the object of helping planters to secure the fulfilment of labour contracts, experience having shown that labourers employed on plantations at some distance from their homes, who almost invariably receive advances on recruitment either from the planters or from their maistris (usually the latter), are prone to leave their employment without fulfilling the terms of their contract. To control this tendency, the Act provides, among other matters, for the imposition of penalties for breach of labour contracts. Public opinion however has come to regard such special penal powers against labourers as obnoxious, and their abolition in all the colonies in which Indian labour is employed has made it difficult to justify their retention in India, however different may be the conditions. The recent repeal of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act XIII of 1859 moreover has given to planters in the two districts to which alone the Madras Act I of 1903 has been applied a statutory control over their labour which is not enjoyed by any other employer of labour in the Presidency.

"In these circumstances the Government appointed a Committee to consider the amendment or repeal of the Act, for which various suggestions had been put forward. The planting community was represented on the Committee by three members. The desirability of abolishing imprisonment as a substantive penalty for breach of labour contracts was agreed to very early in the proceedings. Further discussion showed that even with that modification the planters in the Wynad and the Nilgiris were in a preferential position to that of any other employers in the Presidency; that even fining as a penalty had been eliminated from the regulations affecting Indian Labour in the Colonies, and that therefore it would be difficult to retain any penal provisions; and that the Act, thus shorn of its principal features, might well be repealed *in toto* thus leaving all employers of labour on the same statutory footing. The Government have therefore decided (subject to the consent of the Government of India) to repeal the Act, after giving the planters an adequate period within which to adapt their business to the new conditions.

"Passing now to matters which more directly concern the transferred side of my Government, I have firstly to inform hon. Members of this House that His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General has given his assent to the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act (Amendment) Bill which was passed by the last Council.

"The development of the resources of the province in men and material with a view to better the economic condition of its people has continued to engage the constant attention of my Government. In the performance of this important and difficult task the needs of the agriculturist who, in the words of His Excellency the Viceroy 'is the foundation upon which the whole economic prosperity of India rests', must claim and in fact have received first attention. In the domain of agriculture proper our province can show a good record of continuous progress; more rapid progress will be in sight after the completion of the labours of the Royal Commission on Agriculture whom we had the pleasure of welcoming in our midst three months ago.

"The importance of industries allied to agriculture which provide subsidiary occupations to those engaged primarily in agriculture has not been lost sight of. A survey of cottage industries, existing and potential, will be undertaken as soon as the Council passes the supplementary grant for the

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purpose, and when the essential details have been ascertained a comprehensive programme of development will be drawn up as the basis of work in this field in future. Regarding industries in general the aim of my Government is to provide reasonable scope for indigenous talent and enterprise without in any way competing with private enterprise. Experience of the working of the State Aid to Industries Act shows however that its usefulness perhaps lies more in the encouragement it can afford to properly organized small industries than in the promotion by it of the establishment of industries requiring large capital and highly specialized skill and involving competition with well-organized and firmly established concerns. These observations, of course, do not rule out such activities as the supply of cement in connexion with the Cauvery-Mettur project to which reference has been made in the Administration Report for 1925-26.

"The more important, and indeed, the essential task is the further development of the co-operative agency, especially on its non-credit side. The credit side of the co-operative movement has indeed made great strides, and attracted a considerable body of capital, but its full effect in vitalising industry and promoting the welfare of the great mass of agriculturists has not made itself felt. It has not solved the fundamental problem of agricultural indebtedness. We hope, however, to find a solution in the successful organization and extension of land mortgage banks in which a beginning, though a small beginning, has already been made. Other activities in the non-credit line, such as co-operative grain godown societies, irrigation societies and cattle insurance societies, show that progress is being attempted on right lines.

"It is not in Governments to command success in the field of co-operation; it would not be true co-operation if it were so. Success requires the joint effort of all those who believe in co-operation and are engaged in practising what they believe—the people individually no less than the people organized as a Government. There is no royal road to success in co-operation; we must all make our own road as we go, and on our conjoint effort will depend the ultimate achievement.

"The Government have under consideration the amendment of both the Local Boards and the Elementary Education Acts, and I hope that at least one of these will be before the Legislative Council at its autumn session. My Government feel that the problem of mass education still demands solution and a more advanced scheme for compulsory education should be evolved.

"Since the last session there has been a considerable change in the position of parties but there has been no change in the needs and requirements, in the hopes and aspirations of the people of this Presidency and of India as a whole. As to the measure of time in which these can be fulfilled and the ultimate extent to which they can be satisfied there may be, nay there must be, a difference of opinion but I would venture to hope that at least on the road towards those ideals we can all march together in the spirit of joint endeavour and the determination that no action of ours shall obstruct the forward march although different paths may be chosen all leading in the same direction. It is for us here in Madras in this Presidency in which so strong an effort has been made to work the Reforms, to demonstrate at this psychological moment in the history of the Reforms our fitness for further responsibilities.

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"Hon. Members of this House are fully aware that the Statutory Commission provided for by the Government of India Act will begin to function at the latest in 1929 and in any case, during the lifetime of the present Council. I am convinced that hon. Members are cognizant of the paramount need of demonstrating to that Commission that the education of the electorate and the country at large and the development of the team-spirit which should underlie and is a necessary concomitant of all democratic institutions have proceeded on the right lines towards a further constitutional development and the reorganization of the machinery of Government so as to conduce to the best advantage of the Presidency. Especially do I hope that, with the ungrudging co-operation of this Council, a strenuous campaign will be initiated for the educational advancement and general amelioration of the depressed and backward classes whose progress will without doubt facilitate all further steps. In so far as this Presidency is concerned, it largely rests upon you to make good the anticipation of responsible authorities that Indian statesmen and Legislative Councils will show in course of time their complete ability to cover the whole field of Government by the strenuous and wise exercise of those qualities which have already earned for this Council a no small rank among Indian Legislatures."

His Excellency the Governor then left the Council Chamber.

III

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15 *on the 4th December* 1924.

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Irrigation.

Report of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee.

*1 Q.—Mr. K. Koti Reddi: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received the report of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee; and

(*b*) whether the Government have considered the report and what they propose to do on the recommendations made by the Committee?

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A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have passed orders on the reports of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee in G.O. No. 1973 I., dated 16th December 1926, which has been placed on the Editors' Table. The Government are in consultation with the Board of Revenue, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and the Director of Agriculture on the relative merits of the modified Tungabhadra project recommended by the Committee and those which have been already under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"Sir, may I know if the Government have decided that no scheme in connexion with the Tungabhadra project will be taken up at some time or other; or are they still in doubt, as they themselves say in the report? I may point out, Sir, that in the report itself they say: 'It is impossible, therefore, for the Government now to arrive at any conclusion on the point whether a Tungabhadra project should be undertaken or not.' There seems to be a difference of opinion between what is conveyed in the report and what is conveyed in the answer to this question. I want to know if the Government are prepared to do something at any time in the way of having a project for the Ceded districts, particularly for the utilization of the water of the Tungabhadra?" 11-30 a.m.

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Mr. President, Sir, I may say at once in answer to what has fallen from the hon. Member that, as pointed out in the answer to this question, the Government are concerned with discussing the relative merits of certain schemes which are before the country. That the Government are anxious, very anxious indeed, to initiate some project designed to serve the needs of these districts goes without saying. It is obvious. As a matter of fact, however, hon. Members will realise that either of these two schemes will cost something between Rs. 5 and 10 crores, and before we embark on these schemes, very careful investigation and the enlistment of the best advice possible on the site of the particular schemes to be finally decided upon, would be a *sine qua non*."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"May I know, Sir, if the Government insist on any of the schemes in the Ceded districts paying a remunerative return for the outlay that is to be laid out for the schemes, or would any special consideration be shown for these tracts which are admittedly famine-stricken and which times without number have been promised some *El-Dorado* by the Members concerned?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Hon. Members are aware that the sum of Rs. 6 to 10 crores that may have to be borrowed from the Government of India will bear interest at particular rates. It will be the object of the Government to devise a scheme which will, if possible, at least pay that interest and leave something over, for overhead charges. It may be that in the consideration of this matter, the indirect benefits to be derived from irrigation works in these districts will also be very carefully borne in mind by those responsible for the initiation of the project."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"May I take it for granted, Sir, that in any large scheme in connexion with the Ceded Districts, unless either the people are prepared to impose on themselves a very high rate which probably they

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will not be able to pay, or the scheme itself is able to pay no scheme which does not come under either of these two considerations will be taken up now, or in the future ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I cannot pledge the Government as to its future policy; but I may say this. It will be the endeavour of Government to start a scheme, and if on the materials before them it is possible to start a scheme which will enable Government not to throw any burden on the rest of the Presidency, i.e., the general revenues, they will do so; but if they cannot, they will come to the Legislative Council, and I dare say the hon. Members of this House and the country at large will then pronounce their opinion on the utility of the respective solutions."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government do intend to take any action upon other recommendations of the Irrigation Committee than the Tungabhadra project of which certain things have been said just now? I want to know whether any amount has actually been proposed to be spent during the coming year or has actually been proposed to be included in the budget, in pursuance of promoting the other recommendations that have been made by the Committee ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The orders of the Government on the report give evidence as to what is proposed to be done with regard to the other recommendations contained in the report."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" I am asking whether any provision is being made in the budget for the next year, specifically."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" There are two or three recommendations which are comprised in what may be called the normal programmes of one or other of my hon. Colleagues; for instance, the question of minor irrigation will be dealt with by the hon. the Revenue Member, the question of the sinking of wells and the using of machinery for that purpose will be dealt with by my hon. Friend Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. I take it that in the several budgets which will be presented to this Council, hon. Members will keep these recommendations which have been accepted by Government *in toto* or almost *in toto* in their minds in order to pursue further inquiries."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" The Committee has recommended the investigation of about eleven smaller schemes, and the Government have made some pronouncement in connexion with five schemes which have been referred back to the Chief Engineer for further report. With regard to the others, it is said: 'The remaining six smaller projects recommended by the Committee comprise anicuts or reservoirs . . . The Government doubt the expediency of investigating these projects'. May I take it for granted, Sir, that the Government do not propose to take any action on these smaller schemes at all, and have given them up once for all ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" That is so, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know then, Sir, if it is going to be a mere routine of the department concerned, or if the recommendations of the Irrigation Committee will have a due share in the expenses that may be incurred on the works? Will there be any addition or will it be a mere routine ?"

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The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I hope it would not be treated as a mere routine, Sir."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" May I know, Sir, whether the district of Nellore has been included in this modified Tungabhadra project ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The district of Nellore is included in one of the projects which will engage the attention of Government."

Progress of the Mettur Irrigation Scheme.

*2 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to place before the House the latest developments of the Mettur Irrigation Scheme having regard to its location, plans and estimates ?

A.—The Cauvery project has made good progress in its preliminary stages. A standing camp for 5,000 coolies at Mettur, quarters for officers and staff and a protected water-supply are in course of completion. Thirty-seven miles of road from Erode to Mettur have been laid while a broad gauge feeder line between Salem and Mettur is being surveyed by the South Indian Railway Company. It is proposed to speed up construction by the use of special plant and machinery and an officer who was deputed to England to work out schemes and obtain competitive tenders for the plant and machinery required has just returned. It is hoped to instal the special plant before March 1928 while the ordinary plant ordered through the Indian Stores Department at Delhi is expected to be in operation from April next.

As regards the question of the change of dam site, the hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to question No. 2262 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 15th July 1926. The Consulting Engineer with the Government of India has approved of the new site which is about a mile upstream from the sanctioned site. The change of site, it has since been ascertained, does not require the approval of the Secretary of State and the preliminary work at the new site of the dam has been going on for some time now.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I know, Sir, who is the officer deputed, when and for how long ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Mr. Roberts was deputed and he has been in England for about nine months."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" His qualifications, Sir ? "

The hon. Sir C P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" He is a specialist in machinery and mechanical matters and he has had experience both in Europe and in India."

Mr. J. A Saldanha :—" May I ask, Sir, to what countries he went for obtaining competitive tenders ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I think there is a considerable misapprehension as to this matter both in this House and outside. There has been no acceptance of any tender by anybody Certain

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reports as to the kind or type of machinery that is necessary in this matter have been made. These tenders for large machinery will be obtained by competitive tender as soon as Government decide upon the purchase of particular varieties of machinery."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I know the cost of the trip of this gentleman?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I have not worked it out, but if this information is required, as to his passage and pay, I shall have it worked out."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Did he go only to England or did he go to any other country?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" He went to Great Britain."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" No other country at all?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" He was not ordered to, Sir."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" It is stated in the answer that he went there to obtain competitive tenders. Has he been able to obtain any tenders at all? The answer is simply: 'It is proposed to speed up construction by the use of special plant and machinery and an officer who was deputed to England to work out schemes and obtain competitive tenders for the plant and machinery required has just returned.' Has he been able to obtain any competitive tenders at all?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" That is the information, Sir."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" It is a very important point, Sir, and I have no objection to this question being taken up, if necessary, to-morrow; but we have had experience of these tenders so far as the Coimbatore water-supply scheme was concerned, and therefore I am specifically asking whether any tender has been obtained at all, and, if so, how many."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Preliminary estimates were called for from a number of firms and they have submitted their specifications and their prices. Those specifications and prices are now being considered by the Chief Engineer and Mr. Roberts in consultation. They are expected to make a report to the Government. We expect the report in the course of the next two or three days. When this Council meets again and at budget time, the full details of these competitive tenders, the firms which tendered and also the further details regarding the machinery will probably be available to the House."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I am very thankful, Sir; but they are mere competitive matters. May I pursue the matter? Are all the competitive tenders from England alone or are there any tenders called for from foreign countries?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I have not seen the report, Sir, and I am therefore unable to give an answer to this question; but my impression is that those tenders were called for from Great Britain."

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Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"I ask this because we know that Germany and other countries can supply this machinery much cheaper than Great Britain, and I want to know whether Government cannot call for competitive tenders from other countries, including our own blessed India?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"The blessed country to which reference has been made does not make the machinery, I think; but I hope it will make machinery of this kind soon. Government will bear in mind what has fallen from the hon. Member from Coimbatore."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"Does that mean, Sir, that it has been decided as to what the nature of the machinery should be or that it could not be obtained in India or that the tenders need not be called for even for machinery to be supplied in India. Such machinery may not be made in India, but they can be imported into India and supplied here, without being made in India itself. It is only the competitive prices that should be taken into consideration?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"As I say, I have not looked into the report of the Chief Engineer and Mr. Roberts. As soon as that report is considered by me and my hon. Colleagues in the Government, the results of that investigation will be placed before this House."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"I am afraid it will be too late."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"I may say at once that no orders will be placed in such matters keeping this House in the dark."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"Before the House gets that information, what objection have the Government to call for tenders from countries other than Great Britain, especially when the Government say that they have not accepted the tenders?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"That matter will be borne in mind, Sir." 11-45 a.m.

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"He has referred in this answer to schemes. He has said 'to work out schemes'. I want to know if any schemes have been worked out by this special officer who is deputed to work out schemes."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"It is only for schemes for plant and machinery that this officer is appointed."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"Yes, but has he worked out any schemes?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"Then, Sir, as regards the standing camp for 5,000 coolies at Mettur, quarters for officers and staff and protected water-supply, may I know whether any buildings have been completed these two years? We know, as a matter of fact, buildings were commenced about two years ago. But I want to know whether this costly establishment has been able to complete any buildings at all."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Notice, Sir."

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Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I know, Sir, what is likely to be the approximate price of this machinery."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" When accurate figures are available, I would like to give them."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I take it that this machinery is not included in the present estimates?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" As hon. Members are aware, in the present year's budget, which is in the hands of hon. Members, this has not been provided for. In the coming year's budget about 75 lakhs will, I think, be provided for machinery and other matters. It is only after these tenders are accepted that they can be included in the budget and they will come before the House for sanction."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I beg to be excused. Probably I was not understood. I want to know whether this elaborate machinery has been included in the estimates for the whole work the total cost of which is estimated at 7 crores or so."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I do not know if the hon. the Law Member knows that because the machinery has been thought of only recently. I do not know whether he can assure me that in the original estimate prepared for this work this improved set of machinery has been included."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" In the original estimate prepared about ten years ago, the 1911 estimate I think, naturally no machinery of the kind now contemplated was provided for. It was decided the year before last, I think, and finally confirmed last year that as far as possible the original estimate of the 1911 programme should be altered and recourse had to labour saving machinery in order that the irrigation work might be facilitated and might be started sooner. And from that point of view this purchase of machinery was considered In the revised estimates the cost of this machinery has been included."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I take it, Sir, that it has been included in the estimates sent to the Secretary of State for India?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Not already sent to the Secretary of State. There are revised estimates now pending completion which will be placed before this House and which may ultimately have to go before the Government of India and the Secretary of State."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I take it that this improved machinery would save employing about 5,000 coolies?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" No, no. As a matter of fact, it was estimated, I think, that at the moment when the work was at its largest pitch about 15,000 or 20,000 coolies would be necessary. About three to four thousand coolies would always be necessary for portions of the work, the head works, etc."

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Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Is it not the object of the Government to introduce this machinery in order to save the labour of coolies that would have to be employed. I think it was mentioned by the hon. the Law Member somewhere."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" There would be a saving of a certain number of coolies by both skilled and unskilled labour being replaced by machinery. But there should nevertheless be a residual number of coolies required for this purpose."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" My object is to appeal to the hon. the Law Member to consider whether it is desirable in these days of distress to get valuable machinery from England and dispense with a large number of coolies, especially when they are deprived of their lands and their houses are taken away by Government and there will be a large number of people who are driven out from their houses."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I may mention at once, Mr. President, that there will be enough work for any number of coolies that are likely to be available in this scheme. The difficulty, however, as hon. Members will remember, is that this is a malarial place. At all events, we have got the reports of our health experts that it is a malarial place, and precautions to prevent or minimise malaria are to be taken. Therefore from that point of view it will be necessary to recruit from among those who are accustomed to that tract and the conditions of that tract and not to import labour from outside, which may impose upon the Government further difficulties in the matter of anti-malarial operations, adequate housing, etc. "

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Are not contracts given to outsiders and have not a large number of coolies been imported from outside ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" A certain number of coolies have to be imported from outside because local labour does not volunteer. If, as I was endeavouring to point out, local labour was willing to come forward and take up the work, there will be enough coolies for all the work that is forthcoming."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" As regards this new site, may I know when the new site was thought of for the first time ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" It was thought of when the Government of India Geologist came and pointed out the difficulties; and also when the question of the extent of the floods that recently took place in the Cauvery had to be investigated by our experts, they pointed out that it was as well to make provision for the largest floods. In the last floods, the height of the previous floods was exceeded. So, to a certain extent our old calculations had to be modified with a view to this new factor of making provision for the highest floods. And provision has to be made for the protection and greatest safety of an important work of this magnitude which is probably one of the biggest in the world and certainly one of the biggest in India and the means of overflow or spill from that reservoir have to be very carefully provided for. So, it is firstly the opinion of the geological expert and the opinion of the other experts in consequence of the floods experienced in the Cauvery many months ago that led to this decision to change the site."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I take it that this new Geologist's opinion was attempted to be made a solid fact about ten months ago. Till then for the last 25 years no intelligent expert ever thought that the old site, the site on which His Excellency laid the foundation stone, was weak or anything like that. They thought that a dam put up there at the old site would be sufficiently strong till ten months ago when the new experts thought otherwise."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Explorations and borings pointed out what is called a flaw in the geological strata. That flaw was referred to in the older reports, but the question of the necessity to guard against that flaw became more urgent and important in view of the unprecedented floods as special precautions have to be taken against floods."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Have any precautions now been taken to guard against unprecedented floods in the future ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Engineers have realized what that flood meant and I take it that they prepared their estimates with a view not only to normal conditions but to very abnormal conditions. Precautions have been taken not only with regard to the extent of these floods but also precautions by way of an extra water way for extra water to escape ; in addition to the precaution against largest floods encountered in the Cauvery this was provided for."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" With regard to the new site to be selected has this point about opening for excess water been considered ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The new scheme provides for extra water over and above the highest floods of last year or two to come out by the sides."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Could this not be done on the old site ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" It was the difficulty in connexion with the particular question of provision for excess water which largely led to the change of site."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know what is the cost of the change, due not necessarily to buildings but to acquisitions higher up ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" We are told it is comparatively little."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Have survey estimates been taken with regard to the new place along the whole line which extends over some miles ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The difference in cost is less than 30 lakhs."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Is that amount for acquisition alone ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Not acquisition alone. It is the total."

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Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"May I know the additional cost for acquisition?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"I had hoped that the Government would take us more into their confidence, as there is a great fear that this would be another Back Bay Scheme. So, I am sorry I have to ask . . ."

The hon. the President :—"No ironical references are allowed."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"I want to know whether this special officer is a mechanic or an engineer?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"He is an Executive Engineer in our service called Mr. W. P. Roberts. He is now acting in the Superintending Engineer's grade, I think."

Mr. C. Gopala Menon :—"Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to place before the Members of this House for their information the scheme prepared by the special officer?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"There is no scheme prepared by any special officer."

Mr. C. Gopala Menon :—"The expression 'to work out schemes' occurs here in the answer?"

The Raja of Ramnad :—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member from the answer he has just given whether Mr. Roberts is an Executive Engineer in the cadre of engineers? I thought he was a mechanic, the Superintendent of the Public Works Workshops?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"He is an Executive Engineer who was in charge of the Public Works Workshops, and he is now acting as Superintending Engineer, I think. He was put in charge of this work because as Superintendent of Workshop and otherwise in regard to machinery, he is found best suited for the work."

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Before he is put on this work, I want to know whether he was doing work as an Executive Engineer?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"For a long period. I think he rose from an assistant engineer to an Executive Engineer and he is doing work as such."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—"May I know whether Mr. Roberts has experience of such schemes or projects in the past, or had he been in any such project works prior to this? I know for a number of years he was only Superintendent of Workshops?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Hon. Members, I think, are under a misapprehension. This officer was not sent to devise irrigation schemes, but he was sent there to advise the purchase of some types of machinery, to work out schemes for that machinery, but not for the irrigation schemes. There are two or three different types of machinery that can be devised for the purpose of building the dam. I may mention that the whole machinery is devised to carry out a scheme by which certain material and certain amount of cement or lime can be dumped on to the site in order to build the dam. The question is, are you going to do it as bricklayers and masons do by putting one stone

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on another, etc., or by using mechanical appliances accelerate the work, and are you going to have machinery which will dump the rock or the stone and the cement on to the site. Mr. Roberts' work was to secure the machinery that will be best suited for the purpose."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" That is exactly why I wanted to know if this officer has any experience of such project works, as he is deputed to such a costly and important work as this."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" He was the man whom the Government considered best suited for it amongst their own officers."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know if the hon. the Law Member will be prepared to issue from time to time, considering the large dimensions of this project, reports of the work that is in progress so that we may be spared the necessity of cross-examining him time after time ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" It is both my pleasure and my duty to be cross-examined on the floor of this House, but I may say it is the intention of the Government to issue communiqués on the progress of the work."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" Will the communiqué be issued immediately ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" No, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" Why not, may I know ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Because I have nothing to send communiqués upon."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" There has been so much said about it . . ."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" What I said was that as soon as we come to a conclusion on the deliberations of the Chief Engineer and Mr. Roberts, we would issue a communiqué as to the decisions. But ' immediately ' does not mean to-day or to-morrow and I must say I cannot issue it so soon. "

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" It is not a question of decision I am talking of. It is a question as to whether the hon. the Law Member is prepared to tell us the method that he adopts in regard to the work he is carrying on from time to time."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I am prepared to do that, Sir, and Government have always been prepared to do so."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Only one question. Have the Government any idea of selling this machinery after the prescribed time is over or the work is finished ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" It is in the highest degree unlikely that the Government would have any chance of selling this machinery, after seven years."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I think the whole of it would become damaged or useless."

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The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Works of this magnitude probably impose so much strain on the machinery that it may have to be scrapped. After the utmost work is taken out of it, say at the end of seven years, no other man would be willing to buy the machinery."

Judicial and Executive Functions.

Separation of the judiciary from the executive.

* 3 *Q.*—Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the action taken on the report of the Committee for separation of the judiciary from the executive ; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to make the necessary provision for carrying out the recommendations of the Committee in the budget for 1927-28 ?

A.—(*a*) No action has been taken ; the matter is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(*b*) No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" This question is at least as old as myself in this Council. May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether there is any statement of a helpful nature to give us some indication as to when the Government will be in a position to carry out the recommendations of the Committee appointed by themselves which reported to this House and on which certain resolutions were tabled, and whether they propose to hurry the Government of India on this matter, and whether he will be able to introduce some recommendations to carry out the separation of the executive and judicial functions before he lays down his office ? " 12 noon.

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The answer to my question is partly found in the question itself. Whether my answer will be helpful or not, the answer is this. This House adopted a resolution based upon the recommendations of the Coleridge Committee. The recommendations of the Committee, the resolutions of the House and the opinions of the Government on the resolutions of the House were communicated to the Government of India some time later and the Government of India informed us that the question was of an all-India character and no Local Government should proceed with it unless they had arrived at a kind of all-India decision on the matter. This was over a year or a year and a half ago. From time to time since that time periodical reminders have gone to the Government of India. The same kind of pressure that is applied here to the Treasury benches is also being applied in the Legislative Assembly. The answer of the Government of India is that the matter is still under consideration. The question whether before I lay down my office I will be able to do anything by way of introducing any reforms in that direction entirely depends upon the period of the deliberations of the Government of India."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With reference to the answer given by the hon. the Law Member, may I ask him to state whether this Government is agreeable to solving this as an all-India matter, or whether this Government will get the Government of India to allow this question to be settled in relation to the conditions of this province, where according to me and according to this Council the conditions are ripe for starting these recommendations of the Committee ?"

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am very sorry to interrupt. Will the hon. Member kindly speak up to enable us to follow the debate on this side ?"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Referring to the answer of my hon. Friend the Law Member, may I ask whether he will be pleased to state if he is agreeable to treat this question as an all-India one, so that this province will have to wait till the smaller provinces are ready or whether this Government will get the Government of India to settle this question with regard to this province where the conditions are ripe according to this Council to carry out this much-needed reform very much earlier than in some other provinces ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The wishes of this Government are not really in point. We have been told—because this is a Reserved subject the opinion of the Government of India is absolutely binding on this Government—we have been informed that this is an all-India matter and we should not proceed to bring into effect any scheme or put forward any proposals unless the Government of India have considered this matter and arrived at certain decisions. We are bound by that decision and we are awaiting the end of the deliberations of the Government of India and as they have deliberated for over a year and a half, I am sure their conclusion will be reached fairly quickly."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Therefore, may I take it that the next step will have to be taken by the Government of India, that this Government will do nothing but merely wait till the Government of India chooses its own time to inform its decision or does this Government propose to remind the Government of India that this reform had already been long delayed ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I undertake to transmit to the Government of India the questions and answers, I had almost said the debate, of this morning. I undertake also to remind the Government of India that the reform is pressed for. That is what I can do ; I cannot do anything more."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I know whether the Secretary of State has passed any opinion or order on this matter ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"No."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to place on the table of the House the views of this Government in forwarding the recommendations of the Committee and the resolution passed by this House ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I am not entitled to do so, just now, Sir."

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Landlord and Tenant.

Introduction of the Bill to amend the Estates Land Act.

*4 *Q.*—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Bill amending the Estates Land Act will be introduced ;

(*b*) whether the Government will place on the table the report of the Committee to revise the Estates Land Act ; and

(*c*) the reason for the delay both in the publication of the report and the introduction of the Bill as promised ?

A.—The Bill is still under the consideration of Government. The decisions arrived at by the Committee are being considered. No report has been submitted by the Committee ; but the work of the Committee is practically over.

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"I find there was a reference also in His Excellency's speech this morning to the Estates Land Act Bill. The answer is somewhat obscure. So far as I can make out, the decisions arrived at by the Committee are being considered. No report has been submitted by the Committee ; but the work of the Committee is practically over. May I know how the decisions of the Committee had come before the Government except by a report, and if there is any more work to be done by the Committee ? While on my legs, may I ask when this Government will be in a position to introduce an amending Bill ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The procedure adopted by the Committee was to take the draft Bill which was prepared by my predecessor Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar and to go over it section by section. I have got before me the various decisions on each section. The amendments adopted by the Committee are printed and are available. There are a few more conclusions which have to be gone through. There are some points which are not comprised in that Bill. New points which were brought forward by individual members of the Committee have to be considered and a formal report summarizing all that has been done —a summary of the various conclusions on the clauses and sub-clauses— will be placed before the Government and the Government will embody them in legislation after coming to their own decisions on them."

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro :—" The hon. Member just stated that notes are available. Are they available to be placed on the table of the House ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" At present the Committee is still sitting and until the Committee's deliberations are over they will not be able to place it on the table of the House. As soon as the proceedings are over, it will be placed on the table of the House. "

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Was there not a proposal at the last meeting of the Committee to hold another meeting in October last ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Yes. There was. Letters were sent but a majority of the members said that on account of the election activities it was not possible to come together. As the majority of the members were not willing, the meeting was not held."

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Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Was there any notice sent to members to come to Madras to attend the meeting ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" No."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Sir, may I know when the Government would think of introducing a Bill because His Excellency Lord Willingdon in opening the first session of the Legislative Council in the year 1923 also referred in the same strain that the Government of Madras would introduce an amending Bill to the Estates Land Act as early as possible. Now, Sir, three years had already elapsed and the Committee has been sitting practically for nothing for the last three years. In the circumstances, may I implore the Leader of the House to give us some definite idea as to when the Government would be prepared to introduce the Bill or whether they would not at all take up the Bill so that we may think of taking proper measures so that we may ourselves introduce an amending Bill to give relief to the tenants."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I do not think the hon. Member is doing justice to himself when he said that the Committee has been sitting for nothing because he has been a fairly strenuous and active member of the Committee. He knows quite well as any other member of the Committee that very long discussions have taken place and there were strong divergences of opinion so that it is not a subject which can be quickly disposed of. The bulk of the Committee's work has been done and it is fervently hoped that the Government will consider the report of the Committee and introduce an amending Bill in the course of the August session."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" What is the period of time that has elapsed after the Committee was constituted ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Nearly two years, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" How many meetings of the Committee were held during this period of two years ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Notice."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju when he was a member of this Committee did send many suggestions or amendments to the sections of the Act and, if so, what has become of them ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The hon Member who spoke last knows that they were reserved until the provisions of the draft Bill were disposed of, as many of them were new suggestions."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that certain members, being dissatisfied with the progress of affairs and the business conducted by the Committee, are not at all attending the sittings of the meeting ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I cannot possibly give an effectual answer to that question. I cannot decide whether they were dissatisfied or not, but it is a fact that the attendance has been somewhat perfunctory."

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The Raja of Ramnad :—"May I ask the questioner as to who are the members who were absenting themselves out of dissatisfaction? I would like to have some information on that point. Is it dissatisfaction from the landlords' point of view or the tenants' point of view?"

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—"I am quite willing and I thank my hon. Friend for the information sought for. I have to inform him through you, Sir, that from the point of view of the tenants the members have felt very very much dissatisfied all along and some of the members like my hon. Friend Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, and some others whose names I do not now remember, have been dissatisfied to such an extent that they have given up the idea of attending the sittings of the Committee."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Sir, I learn and I may also say I realize that there is a certain amount of dissatisfaction underlying the words of the last speaker. It is somewhat curious that such a dissatisfaction did not find any written expression in any statement or letter from any member of the Committee. No member of the Committee got up and said, 'I disagree with the way in which the Committee is conducting its business'. This silence may be all right from their point of view; but I must say it is embarrassing from the others' point of view."

Mr. Mahmud Schamnad Sahib :—"May I know whether the hon. Member, the Raja of Ramnad, was in order in addressing a Member of the House?"

The hon. the President :—"He was in perfect order; but the point of order was not raised in time."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—"I may inform hon. Members of this House that many members, I believe, including myself and including the hon. the President, have expressed dissatisfaction at the way in which the proceedings had been conducted. I for myself have been approaching from time to time the hon. the Law Member just to take prompt action in the matter and come to conclusions to introduce this Bill. I am very sorry the hon. the Leader of the House has failed to recollect my own representations."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Sir, I am quite aware of the many occasions on which my hon. Friend did me the honour of going to my room. But I am not aware of any feeling of dissatisfaction that ever found expression either from his own mouth or by means of representations made in the meetings of the Committee. It was quite open to hon. Members to arrange for the meetings at the time of the various adjournments when it has been my idea to subserve to the convenience of the Committee. I had no objection to sit *de die in diem* so that the work might be gone through."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—"Letters, representations, dissatisfactions, expressions of opinion both in the sittings of the Committee and also certain meetings of the Council. If these do not express the sentiments of resentment, I do not know how to express them."

The hon. the President :—"The hon. Member is requested to put a question."

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12-15 p.m. Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" If these things do not indicate the feelings of dissatisfaction as expressed from time to time, I do not know what else it is. Resolutions from various associations have also been appearing in the press."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" The hon. Member Mr. Biswanath Das gave out the name of Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, the hon. Member for Chittoor, as one of those who absented themselves from the Committee on account of dissatisfaction. I understand from him that he did not absent himself at all for that reason."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member for Chittoor is present in the House, and he may have contradicted the statement if he liked."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" I am sure, Sir, the hon. Member for Chittoor and some others expressed dissatisfaction, and he said that he was not going to attend any more meetings of the Committee."

Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I found, as the members who constituted the committee found, that in the first few meetings the voting was heavily loaded on one side only, against the tenants. Then I thought that it was not worth while to attend the meetings, and that was what I communicated to the hon. Member and I thought my hon. Friend Mr. Biswanath Das would find his own way to deal with the matters so far as tenants were concerned. I am sorry that a communication made privately in a conversation was adverted to."

Land Revenue.

Assignment of the tank-bed at Kanaparti to depressed classes.

* 5 Q.—Mr. G. PREMAYYA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the tank-bed at Kanaparti, Ongole taluk, Guntur district, has been assigned to the depressed classes ; and

(*b*) if not, at what stage the matter is ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government are not aware of any proposal for the assignment of any tank-bed in the village to the depressed classes.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know whether the Collector of Guntur or the Sub-Collector of Ongole have made any assignment to the depressed classes ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not know, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know whether the Government will be pleased to call for information ? "

The hon. Mr N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Will the hon Member specify what information ? "

Mr. P. ANJANEYLU :—" I am referring to this question, Sir, ' whether the tank-bed at Kanaparti, Ongole taluk, Guntur district, has been assigned to the depressed classes ; and, if not, at what stage the matter is.' My submission is this : whether the Sub-Collector of Ongole or the Collector of Guntur made any assignments on darkhast."

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The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" If the hon. Member wishes me to ascertain whether an assignment of tank-bed has been made, I shall be pleased to do so."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to assign tank-beds to private persons ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir."

Record of rights regarding lands in this Presidency.

*6 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the answer to my question No. 485 on 18th March 1925—

(a) whether Government have since had under consideration any scheme for establishing a record of rights in regard to lands in this Presidency ;

(b) whether Government have considered and passed orders on my suggestion that the agency for maintaining a record of rights should be village officers and not the Registration department ; and

(c) whether Government have decided upon having recourse to legislation on the subject, and if so, when the required legislation will be brought ?

A.—The matter has been under the consideration of the Government but final proposals have not yet been decided on. The idea of preparing a record through the agency of the Registration department has, however, been dropped.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire whether the Government are aware that the Mysore Government has brought in a Bill on the record of rights on the model of the Bombay Act of Land Record of Rights ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire why there has been so much delay in bringing such a measure before this Council, especially having regard to the strong agitation on the matter since March 1925 ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not know whether there has been any undue delay. The Government should know what was going to be the opinion of the House on such a subject."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" When may we expect a Bill on the subject ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I should not like to say when. What is actually proposed to do is to issue some sort of communication in order to elicit the opinions of the Members of this House."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" It is said in the answer to the question : 'The idea of preparing a record through the agency of the Registration department has, however, been dropped.' Is it under the consideration of Government to give this right to the village officers ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" There is nothing more decided about dropping than what has been stated there."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" It is stated in the question that the agency for maintaining a record of rights should be either the village officers or the Registration department, and in the answer it is said that the

idea of doing it through the agency of the Registration department has been dropped. Therefore, may I know whether it is still under the consideration of Government that the agency should be given to the village officers, because that seems to be the other alternative proposed, if the idea of entrusting it to the Registration department has been dropped?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—" No, Sir; the other alternative has not been dropped."

Village Establishments.

Reduction of the salaries of village officers.

* 7 *Q.*—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the reason why the pay of the village officers (both karnams and kargees) and village menials was reduced;

(*b*) the number of persons restored to office as the result of the Village Officers Restoration Act in each of the four divisions of the Ganjam district; and

(*c*) the savings effected by Government owing to the reduction of salaries of village establishment in the district of Ganjam—

(i) out of the pay of the village officers;

(ii) out of the pay of village menials, i.e., the talaiyari and the village watcher?

A.—(*a*) To meet the cost of restoring abolished offices.

(*b*) & (*c*) Final figures showing the effect of the measures taken are not yet available either for the Presidency as a whole or for particular districts.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—" In answering clause (*a*) of the question, it is said 'to meet the cost of restoring abolished offices.' May I know whether it is for each district or for the Presidency as a whole?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—" The Presidency as a whole, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—" May I know, Sir, whether the step has been taken permanently, or whether the past tense used is only a past tense. With regard to the question asking for the reason for reducing the pay of village officers and talaiyaris, the answer given is 'to meet the cost of restoring abolished offices.' Is it a permanent measure, or was it intended to balance the budget that was already in progress? I may add another question also. Is it in the contemplation of Government to revise the pay of village officers and restore it to the rates prevailing just previous to the last reduction?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—" There is no further intention of increasing the cost of the establishment."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—" May I know what is the aggregate amount saved by the reduction in the whole Presidency, i.e., the total savings made on account of the reduction in the pay of the village establishment?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—" We have not got exact figures. That is why I could not make a definite statement."

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Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" I am afraid the hon. Member has not followed my question. I am asking what is the total amount saved by the Government by cutting down the pay of village officers."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I understand the hon. Member wants exact figures. I must ask for notice."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask how then a reduction was arrived at without ascertaining what the net savings will be ? "

The hon Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not happen to have the figure just in my mind now."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to place on the table what the total amount of reduction was ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" It has been placed on the table, and it will be placed again."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" With regard to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) of the question, the answer is ' Final figures showing the effect of the measures taken are not yet available.' I think the budget must have been prepared and that should give the number of hands, village officers and others appointed during the year."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Will the Government be pleased to place on the table of the House a statement showing the savings effected in each district owing to the reduction of pay of village officers, under the different headings of savings effected from the pay of village officers, i.e., village munsifs as also from the pay of village karnams ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" We have asked for a full statement of details as to the result of the measures taken in each district, and when that is received, it will be published and laid on the table. As regards the hon. Member Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar's question, I may say the budget figures will no doubt show the total numbers on the revised salary, but they would not show the details as to each district."

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" In the recent elections, it was said that the Ministers were responsible for the reduction of the salaries of village officers. Will the hon. Member for Revenue say whether the Ministers were responsible for it ? "

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Is that a supplementary question, Sir ? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" On a point of order, Sir. A supplementary question is meant to elicit information on an answer already given. What is the answer now given which will implicate the Ministers in the matter ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" In any case, I do not propose to answer the question." (Laughter.)

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" The question is who is responsible for this action, and therefore it is a relevant question."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask where it is said that the Ministers are responsible for it ? "

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Government Press.

Alleged dismissal of Mr. A. V. Gopalachari.

* 8 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the reason why the services of Mr. A. V. Gopalachari, Commission Sales clerk, Government Branch Press, Madras, were dispensed with;

(*b*) whether the work for which the punishment was inflicted upon him pertains to his usual routine; and

(*c*) whether there was regular enquiry held in his case as laid down in the rules, before his services were dispensed with?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) As Commission Sales clerk in the Mount Road Branch of the Government Press it was A. V. Gopalachari's duty to check the ledgers maintained in connexion with the sale of Government publications and to prepare a compilation statement in connexion with the annual administration report. His services were dispensed with because he failed in the performance of these duties.

(*c*) Yes.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"In regard to clause (*c*) of my interpellation, the answer is 'Yes'. Will the Government be pleased to state as to who held the enquiry and whether they would make the report of the officer who held the enquiry available to the Members of the Legislative Council?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"An enquiry was held, and the clerk concerned pleaded guilty to the charge, and therefore his services were dispensed with."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is who held the enquiry?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I suppose the head of the department."

Labour.

Committee to consider the Bill to amend the Madras Planters Labour Act.

*9 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased—

(*a*) to place before the House the names of the Members of the Committee appointed by Government to consider my Bill to amend the Madras Planters Labour Act, and the conclusions the Committee have arrived at with the reasons therefor; and

(*b*) to state what action Government have taken or propose to take on them?

A.—(*a*) The names of the Members of the Committee are—

The hon. the Home Member—*President*.
The Commissioner of Labour.
R. Fowke, Esq., Chairman, United Planters' Association, Southern India.
Capt. E. G. Windle—Planting Member.
J. A. Saldanha, Esq., M.L.C.

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M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai Avargal, C.I.E.

,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar Avargal, M.L.C.

H. Waddington, Esq., Secretary, United Planters' Association, Southern India.

The Secretary to Government, Public Works and Labour Department.

The following resolution was adopted by the majority of the Committee :—

"The Madras Planters Labour Act Amendment Committee recommends to Government the repeal of the Madras Planters Labour Act, 1903, provided Government simultaneously undertake to introduce legislation generally applicable to all industries in the Presidency where labour is employed on a system of advances." The hon. Member was a party to the above resolution, and presumably is aware of the reasons which led to its adoption.

(*b*) It was not accepted entirely by the Government who were unable to give any undertaking to replace the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act which was repealed only so recently as April 1926.

They have, however, decided (subject to the consent of the Government of India) to repeal the Madras Act, and a Bill to give effect to this from April 1930 is now in course of preparation.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"With reference to the first part of the answer to clause (*b*), may I enquire whether Government have made enquiries as to what extent the repeal of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act has inflicted an injury on the employers of labour?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"There was no necessity for Government to make such enquiries."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I should think there was every necessity. Now that the Government also want to repeal the Madras Planters Labour Act, may I enquire why Government do not think it necessary, before drafting a new Labour Act, to enquire whether the repeal of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act as well as the repeal of the Planters Act side by side with it will not work any great hardship on the employers as well as the labourers?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I have nothing to add to what I have already said."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"With regard to the last part of the resolution of the Madras Planters Labour Act Amendment Committee, the answer given under clause (*b*) does not show anything about the action taken by Government on this part, i.e., to introduce legislation generally applicable to all industries in the Presidency. May I know if the resolution has been accepted by the Government fully or partly, and whether any Bill is in contemplation of being introduced for labour in the whole Presidency?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Government have accepted the first part of the resolution partially, viz., the repeal of the Madras Planters Labour Act, 1903. With regard to the second part of the resolution, the Government require more time to decide the question."

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Local Boards.

Vacancy in Chingleput District Board.

* 10 *Q.*—Mrs. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any proposal has been received from the President of the Chingleput District Board or the Collector of Chingleput for filling up the vacancy caused by the resignation of a lady member of the District Board; and if so, when;

(*b*) whose name was recommended to Government;

(*c*) if the name of a lady member has not been proposed, the reasons given by the recommending authorities therefor;

(*d*) what attempts were made to get a lady nominee for the place vacated by the lady member; and

(*e*) whether Government will be prepared to consider the desirability of appointing a lady member in that vacancy?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) The President, District Board, Chingleput, submitted proposals in July 1926 for the nomination of a lady resident in Madras in the place of Mrs. K. Sathianathan resigned. As the nominee was entirely unconnected with the district, the President was asked to suggest the name of a lady of the Chingleput district. He submitted a nomination accordingly in September 1926. The Government, however, considered it desirable to fill the vacancy otherwise on that occasion.

(*e*) The Government will consider the question of appointing a lady member when an occasion presents itself, as stated in answer to clauses (*e*) and (*f*) of question No. 19.

12-30 p.m. Mrs. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—"Sir, with reference to the answer to the question (*a*) to (*d*), may I ask the hon the Minister for Local Self-Government on what grounds the Government have set aside the nomination of the President of the District Board and appointed a gentleman in the vacancy caused by the resignation of a lady member?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The then Government thought that the Board would be better served by the nomination of the gentleman."

Mrs. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—"Does he presume that the lady member recommended had not the requisite capacity?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I never said anything of the kind."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Which Government made the nomination, the then Government or this Government?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I am responsible for the nomination."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I thought the hon. Minister referred to the then Government."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The then Government approved of the nomination, and the gentleman was nominated subsequently; and I thought he was very desirable on the district board."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—"It is stated here 'As the nominee was entirely unconnected with the district', etc. May I ask the hon. the Chief Minister what he means by 'entirely unconnected'?"

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The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" She was not a resident of the Chingleput area and had never been in the Chingleput district."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*a*), may I ask the hon. Minister whether the Collector of Chingleput made any recommendation apart from the President of the Chingleput District Board ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" The question has been there for some time and he could have the answer ready. But since he wants notice, let him have it. I want to ask what are the names of the two nominees referred to as having been proposed in July 1926 and September 1926 respectively, which were turned down by the Government ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" One was Mrs. Alamelumangathayar Ammal ; and the other—I want notice, I am not sure." (Laughter.)

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" Just now the hon. Minister explained that the member proposed by the president of the district board was entirely unconnected with the district. May I know if he is aware that the present president of the district board is not a resident of the district and if he is connected with that district ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The present president is connected with the district. He had the honour of representing Chingleput and South Arcot in the Assembly."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" I admit that he is connected with the district board, as long as he is the president of the board. But is he a resident of the district ? "

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know if the President of the Chingleput District Board owns lands in the district ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if Mr. C. Muttayya Mudaliyar was the gentleman who was appointed in the place of the lady member and if so, whether he was a voter in the landholders' constituency for which the Raja of Panagal stood and whether the hon. Minister has satisfied himself by independent enquiry, whether the appointment was not offered to him in consideration of the vote of Mr. C. Muttayya Mudaliyar and his wife, without which the Raja of Panagal would have been defeated ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The gentleman who was nominated in the place of Mrs. Sathianathan was Mr. Venkataratnam and not Muttayya Mudaliyar."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" In whose vacancy was Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar nominated ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" In the vacancy caused by the resignation of Swaminatha Mudaliyar of Conjeeveram."

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Was the gentleman elected by the members of the district board ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want to raise a point of order. I should like to know how the question raised by Sir Patro arises ? "

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Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro :—" It is suggested that he is not a resident of the district and as such he is not entitled to be nominated. In answer to that, the question arises whether he is an elected president of the district board ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" He is an elected president of the district board."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I know if he (Mr. M. K. Reddi) was not a nominated member of the district board ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Yes ; he is a nominated member ; rather he was a nominated member before he became president."

Mr. C. N. Muthurangam Mudaliyar :—" May I know, if he was nominated, how is it that his name has not yet been gazetted ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I want notice."

Mr. L. K. Tulasiram :—" Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government at least give an assurance that in making appointments in the vacancies caused by the resignation of lady members he will make it a rule only to appoint ladies and not bring in gentlemen ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" As far as possible, I shall see that ladies are nominated in such vacancies caused either by efflux of time or resignation."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" In answer to question 19, which is an unstarred question relating to the same matter, it appears that the two vacancies were filled up by Government recently in the Chingleput District Board, one by the gentleman mentioned now and one by Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar. These two vacancies happened after the lady member's resignation. May I ask why in both cases the claims of ladies were overlooked and two gentlemen successively appointed ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" The lady member was there, not as a lady member, but as a representative of the Christian community."

The hon. the President :—" The allotted time for questions and answers has expired. We shall now proceed to the next item on the agenda."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Irrigation.

Digging of an irrigation channel from the Peri Eri of Eraiyur village.

11 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state, with reference to his answer to question No. 1497 given on 2nd March 1926 regarding digging of an irrigation channel from the Peri Eri of Eraiyur village,—

(*a*) whether he has obtained the report from the Chief Engineer as stated to have been called for by him ; and

(*b*) whether he will be pleased to place it on the table of this House with orders passed thereon, if any ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A copy [a] of the Chief Engineer's report is placed on the table. The Government recorded the report.

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 83-84 infra.

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Construction of a channel from the Turiyalar river.

12 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Kil Pennathur and about twenty villages in its neighbourhood, in the Tiruvannamalai taluk of the North Arcot district, did not get any supply of water to their tanks during the last five years;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Tank Restoration Scheme Party drew up some years back a scheme to irrigate this area by means of a channel from the Turiyalar river which flows adjacent to this group of villages;

(*c*) what has become of that scheme; and

(*d*) if Government have no information, whether they will be pleased to call for a report?

A.—The Government have no information and have called for a report from the Chief Engineer.

The Girisola channel in Ganjam district.

13 *Q.*—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the amount spent up to the end of November 1926 in executing the Girisola channel in the Goomsur division (Ganjam district)?

A.—No expenditure has been incurred on the execution of the channel.

Land Revenue.

Penalties for putting up brick-kilns in tank and porambokes.

14 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in the North Arcot district, especially in Cheyyar division, in cases where the ryots put up brick-kilns in tank and other porambokes, the local authorities levy heavy penalties and take steps for eviction by confiscation and sale of bricks;

(*b*) whether Government have received any complaints regarding the hardships to which the ryots were put in consequence thereof;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that this drastic action is taken even as against ryots who put up such kilns for bona fide domestic purposes;

(*d*) in how many cases such confiscations by eviction have taken place in the Cheyyar division of North Arcot district; and

(*e*) what objections, if any, Government have for charging "Block rate" only during the first year in case of those ryots who have put up brick-kilns for bona fide domestic purposes?

A.—The hon Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1341 put at the meeting of the Council on 10th February 1926. The report [a] of the Collector of North Arcot thereon dated 18th February 1926 is attached. The Government concur in the Collector's views.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 84–85 infra.

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Cases of encroachment in Valkadai and Peranamallur firkas.

15 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in Valkadai and Peranamallur firkas of Cheyyar Revenue division, the Revenue authorities book petty cases of encroachment (less than one cent in extent);

(*b*) whether this policy is contrary to the provisions of the Board's Standing Order No. 26;

(*c*) whether Government will be pleased to furnish statistics of such petty cases of encroachments during the current *fasli*; and

(*d*) what steps, if any, Government propose to take to protect the ryots against such harassment by the Revenue authorities?

A.—(*a*) No such cases have come to the knowledge of the Government.

(*b*) Detailed instructions for dealing with petty encroachments are contained in Board's Standing Order No. 26, paragraph 8, to which the hon. Member is referred.

(*c*) & (*d*) As the ryot has the right of appeal against any action of the local Revenue authorities that he may consider a harassment the Government do not propose on the information before it to take any action in the matter or to call for statistics.

Tree valuation for trees in the darkhast lands in the Lower Palnis.

16 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandya Nadar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state why the tree valuation for the trees in the darkhast lands in the Lower Palnis, Madura district, is very high as compared with the tree valuation for the trees in the same kind of lands in the Shevaroys?

A.—The valuation of trees on darkhast lands is based upon the scale of seigniorage rates prescribed for the district under section 26 (*h*) of the Madras Forest Act. This scale has been fixed for each district with reference to the local conditions existing in the district.

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Alleged telegram from Tiruvannamalai Municipal Council to the Raja of Panagal.

17 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Tiruvannamalai Municipal Council sent a telegram to the Raja of Panagal, M.L.C., congratulating him at his success in the last Council election;

(*b*) whether the cost of the telegram came out of municipal funds; and

(*c*) whether Government have passed any orders for the recovery of this sum from those responsible for the expenditure?

A.—The Government have no information.

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Civil suits instituted by the Cannanore Municipal Council.

18 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased—

(*a*) to place before the House a statement showing

(i) the number and nature of civil suits instituted by the Cannanore Municipal Council during the five years ending with 31st March 1926;

(ii) the appeals and second appeals against the decrees of the Courts passed thereon, and their results;

(iii) the cost thrown on the Municipal Council thereby; and

(*b*) to state whether representations have been received as to the extravagant and arbitrary expenditure of public funds by the Municipal Council, and what orders Government have passed thereon?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) No such representations have been received.

Vacancies in Chingleput District Board.

19 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether two vacancies have recently been caused in the District Board of Chingleput by the resignation of two nominated members;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Government contemplate nominating a Mudaliyar for one place and an Indian Christian gentleman for the other place;

(*c*) whether the hon. the Minister is aware that there are now already ten Mudaliyars in the District Board, and if the answer to clause (*b*) is in the affirmative, what are the special interests that will be represented by the Mudaliyar whom the Government contemplate nominating for the vacancy;

(*d*) whether note has been taken of the fact that there are many minority communities unrepresented in the District Board like the Razu community and whether Government have considered or propose to consider the advisability of nominating one belonging to such a community instead of a Mudaliyar;

(*e*) whether the hon. the Minister is aware that one of the vacancies in the District Board has been caused by the resignation of a lady member and that there is at present no lady member in the District Board; and

(*f*) if the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, whether the hon. the Minister will consider the advisability of nominating a lady again for the vacancy instead of a gentleman?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes. M.R.Ry. C. Muttayya Mudaliyar Avargal, B.A., has been appointed as having leisure and other qualifications fitting him to perform useful service as a member of the District Board.

(*d*) The Government have considered the question whether Muhammadans, the depressed and backward classes and other minorities were adequately represented.

(*e*) & (*f*) Yes. The Government will consider the question of appointing a lady member when an occasion presents itself.

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Nominations to Chingleput District Board.

20 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the present President of the Chingleput District Board, Mr. M. K. Reddi, has been nominated although there were not less than five members in the District Board belonging to the Reddi community ; and

(*b*) whether the hon. the Minister has examined the claims of minority communities unrepresented in the District Board for the vacancy, if any ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) M.R.Ry. M. K. Reddi was appointed a member of the district board on 4th March 1924 in place of his father. At that time there were five members of the board who were members of the Reddi community.

The claims of minority communities were considered.

Representation of minorities in local boards.

21 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether he proposes strictly to adhere to the principle that nominations should always be made of deserving members belonging to the minority communities either unrepresented or inadequately represented in the local boards ?

A.—The Government will give due consideration to the representation of minorities in making nominations to district boards and will at the same time hold themselves free to consider the general interests of the board.

Co-operative Societies.

Work done by Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies.

22 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state, with reference to the answer to Question No. 1493 regarding work done by Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies given on 2nd March 1926—

(*a*) whether he has obtained the necessary information as required in clause (*c*) of the question ; and

(*b*) if not, whether he will be pleased to obtain the same and place it on the table of this House ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have since called for the information and will place it on the table of the House when received.

Working of the Vellore Trading Union in North Arcot district.

23 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Vellore Trading Union in the North Arcot district has not been working at all during the last six years ;

(*b*) what is the amount of share capital held by societies and by individuals and how much of it has to be adjusted towards loss ;

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(c) whether it is a fact that the General Body of the Members of this institution repeatedly requested the Assistant Registrar to liquidate it;

(d) what is the extent of the total transactions of this institution during the last four years;

(e) whether it is a fact that the representative of this institution is also the Secretary of the Vellore Union and of the District Council as well; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the shareholders are incurring loss every year owing to the refusal of the Deputy Registrar to liquidate it?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*f*) The Government have no information.

Excise.

Location of toddy shops in some villages near Mangalore.

24 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what is the number of liquor shops and toddy shops in the villages of Panambur and Bangra-Kulur near Mangalore in South Kanara;

(b) how many schools and churches and temples are close to them; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in the latter village the toddy and liquor shops are in close proximity to one or two schools besides the Roman Catholic Church of St. Anthony?

A.—The Government have no information but have called for a report.

Location of a toddy shop near Ammur.

25 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that an arrack and a toddy shop are located on the public road to Sholinghur and adjacent to the Walajah Road Railway station, near No. 28, Ammur village in North Arcot district;

(b) whether there are any complaints on the ground of inconvenience and annoyance to the people in the neighbourhood;

(c) whether it is a fact that large numbers of day-labourers have to pass these shops on their way home from the fields;

(d) whether it is a fact that the railway staff and the cart and jutka-drivers often resort to these shops to the danger of the public; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the Advisory Committee has recommended their removal to a less objectionable locality?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*e*) The Government have no information but have called for a report.

Public Health.

Supply of drinking water for Arni town.

26 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pashangamoor and Paiyur tanks are the chief sources for the supply of drinking water for Arni town and surrounding villages;

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(*b*) whether it is a fact that the watchmen have been dispensed with since some two months back, in the case of these ponds; and

(*c*) whether in consequence the supply of drinking water in the tanks has become unfit for human consumption?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information but have called for a report.

IV

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE REGARDING THE METTUR PROJECT.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, under Standing Order No. 20, I beg to ask for leave to move for an adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the unsatisfactory nature of the G.O. No. 1974, Irrigation, dated 16th December 1926, and the urgent necessity of modifying it, especially with a view to grant some irrigation facilities under the Mettur scheme to the districts of Coimbatore and Salem."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I hold that the motion is in order. I wish to know if any honourable Member objects to the motion being made.

"There being no objection, the motion will be taken up for consideration to-morrow at 2-30 p.m."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"To-morrow is a non-official day and it is our desire that non-official days should not be encroached upon by other business. May I ask whether this subject could not be taken up this afternoon?"

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, in order to deal adequately with this matter it would be necessary to arm myself with the necessary papers and to study them from the aspects from which my hon. Friend would like to deal with the matter. In order to do justice to the subject and in order to give as much information as the importance of the subject demands, I should like to have some more time. As a matter of fact, this is a topic in which the non-officials, as is evident from the questions this morning, are taking a lot of interest. It is quite easy for me to return a non-committal answer, but I take it that this would satisfy nobody. If they want to have a full discussion of the matter, I submit that to-morrow would be more suitable and I trust the Leader of the Opposition would agree to it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. the Mover of the motion has mentioned to me that he wants the motion to be taken up to-morrow. That is one of the reasons for my order that it will be taken up for discussion to-morrow."

V

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

A

The SECRETARY laid on the table copies of the following Government Orders :—

[a] (i) G.O. No. 568, Judicial, dated 31st August 1926, passing orders on the report of the Special Officer appointed to report upon the reorganization of Armed Reserves.

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[a] Printed separately.

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[a] (ii) G.O. No. 1574, Development, dated 1st November 1926, recording the audit report of the Mount Stuart Working Circle for the year 1924–25.

[a] (iii) G.O. No. 1606, Development, dated 10th November 1926, passing orders on the audit report of the Russellkonda Saw Mill for the year 1925–26.

[b] (iv) G.O. No. 1618 W., Public Works and Labour Department, dated 29th October 1926, regarding the authorization of expenditure of Rs. 20,000 for the purchase of a bungalow for the residence of the additional District Magistrate of Malabar.

[a] (v) G.O. No. 1619, Development, dated 12th November 1926, recording the audit report of the Industrial Engineering Workshop for the year 1925–26.

[c] (vi) G.O. No. 1622, Development, dated 13th November 1926, recording the audit report of the Government Industrial Institute, Madura, for the half-year ending 30th September 1925.

[a] (vii) G.O. No. 1628, Development, dated 15th November 1926, recording the audit report of the Government Industrial Institute, Madras (Ink Factory), for the year 1925-26.

[a] (viii) G.O. No. 1632, Development, dated 15th November 1926, recording the audit report of the Kerala Soap Institute for the year 1925–26.

B

[d] The SECRETARY laid on the table copies of the list of posts on Rs. 500 per mensem and above created during the quarter ending September 1926.

VI

ACTS ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I have to announce that the undermentioned Acts which were passed by the Council received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the dates noted against each :—

The Madras City Tenants' Protection (Amendment) Act, 1926.	20th October 1926.
The Kirlampudi B and C Estates, Dontamaru and Rayavaram Impartible Estates Act, 1926."	9th November 1926.

VII

ACTS ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that the undermentioned Acts which were passed by the Council received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the dates noted against each :—

The Kirlampudi B and C Estates, Dontamaru and Rayavaram Impartible Estates Act, 1926.	7th October 1926.
The Madras City Tenants' Protection (Amendment) Act, 1926.	30th September 1926.
The Madras Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1926."	13th December 1926.

[a] Placed on the Editors' Table.
[b] Printed as Appendix III on page 85 infra.
[c] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 85–93 infra.
[d] Printed as Appendix V on pages 93–96 infra.

VIII

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have to announce the names of the Members who have been elected to the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Finance Committee.

Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. V. Ch. John.
,, C. Gopala Menon.
,, A. Kaleswara Rao.
,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
,, V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
Muhammad Khadir Mohidin Sahib Bahadur.
Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar.

Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
,, K. Koti Reddi.
K. V. P. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur.
Mr. K R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
,, Daniel Thomas.
Khan Bahadur Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur."

IX

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE SENATE OF THE MADRAS UNIVERSITY.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I have to announce that as a result of the voting for the election of twelve members to the Senate of the Madras University by the non-official Members of the Legislative Council, the following Members have been declared duly elected :—

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
,, K. Koti Reddi.
,, J. A. Saldanha.
,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
,, C. Gopala Menon.
,, C. Venkatarangam Nayudu.
,, S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
,, Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
,, B. Muniswami Nayudu.
,, L. K. Tulasiram.
,, B. S. Mallayya.
,, P. Anjaneyulu."

X

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

12-45 p.m. * The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The Council will, under Standing Order 3 of the Madras Legislative Council framed under section 72-C (2) of the Government of India Act, proceed to elect a Deputy President.

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"Under No. 3 (2) of the Standing Orders of the Madras Legislative Council, every member who wishes to propose a member for election to the office of Deputy President must

(i) ascertain previously that the member is willing to serve if elected, and

(ii) hand to the President a notice containing the name of the member he desires to propose, signed by himself and some other member as seconder.

"The nomination papers may be handed over before 12-50 p.m.

"The member nominated is Dr. Muthulaksmi Reddi proposed by Mr. P. T. Rajan and seconded by the Zamindar of Seithur. Since only one person has been proposed for election, I hereby declare that Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi has been duly elected Deputy President." (Loud applause.)

IV.—AMENDMENT TO THE ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI:—"I crave your leave for a few minutes. My hon. Friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, moved the adjournment of the House regarding the question of irrigation for the districts of Salem and Coimbatore announced in the recent Government Order No. 1974, dated 16th December 1926. I wish to move an amendment to the adjournment motion for the addition of the words 'and Trichinopoly'."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member may move the amendment to-morrow when the question is taken up. The admissibility of his amendment will then be considered."

XI

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. N. SIVA RAJ:—"Mr. President, I propose that the House do stand adjourned to 11 o'clock on Wednesday the 26th instant in view of the fact that the Cricket Match is being played in the city in which most of the Members are keenly interested."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know how many Members attended yesterday?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The proposition has not been seconded as yet."

Diwan Bahadur A. M. M. MURUGAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"I second it."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, I am aware of the extreme importance of these sports and the great interest evinced by the people of Madras in these matches; but at the same time my hon. Friend will recollect that a motion for adjournment has been specifically fixed for to-morrow afternoon and that only three days have been allotted for non-official business by His Excellency the Governor. Also it must be borne in mind that every day means Rs. 1,300 at least of public money. Therefore, in a matter of this kind, if the opinion of the House is not unanimous, I would appeal to my hon. Friend not to divide the House."

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* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"I oppose this motion. There is plenty of time for us to witness cricket matches."

Mr. N. SIVA RAJ :—"As I fear the opinion of the House is not unanimous, I do not wish to press my motion."

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

XII

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I have to inform the House that under rule 3 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, I have appointed the following four gentlemen to be a panel of chairmen for this session :—

Mr. J. A. Saldanha,
Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar,
Sir Alexander MacDougall, and
Mr. Abbas Ali."

XIII

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I move that, with a view to appoint a House Committee in pursuance of Standing Order 80, this Council do proceed to elect six members to be members of the said Committee according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I second it."

The motion was adopted.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I have to inform the House that with reference to Regulation II of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 2 p.m. to-day as the time by which nominations should be sent to the Secretary. The voting will take place to-morrow."

XIV

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF INDUSTRIES.

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that this Council do proceed on a date to be fixed by you, Sir, to elect two Members to be the Council's representatives on the Board of Industries under Madras Act V of 1923. That Act contemplates the constitution of a Board of Industries under section 3 (1) (*b*)."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I second it."

The motion was adopted.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I have to inform the House that with reference to Regulation II of the Regulations for the holding of elections, I fix 2 p.m. to-day as the time within which nominations of candidates for election to the Board should be sent to the Secretary."

XV

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

Grant No. XXX.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I move, Sir, '*that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs.* 100 *under " Grant XXX—Civil Works—Transferred " for a scheme of extension and improvements to the Government Women and Children's Hospital, Mangalore*.' 1 p.m.

" I may be permitted to explain the idea underlying the scheme. It has been for a very long time admitted that the Women and Children's Hospital at Mangalore was in need of extensions and improvements and that the hospital accommodation was found insufficient to provide for the very large number of patients that came there for their treatment. In this measure the public of Mangalore have been taking a considerable amount of interest and they have by public subscription collected Rs. 30,000 which has been deposited in the Imperial Bank of India. The municipality of Mangalore has also contributed a sum of Rs. 20,000. The scheme of improvements proposed costs about Rs. 81,000 and it is now proposed to start the more urgent parts of the scheme. The grant of Rs. 100 along with the money already available will enable us to proceed with the scheme immediately."

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I second it."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not wish to oppose this grant. But I only wish to bring to the notice of my hon. Friend, the Minister for Public Health, that the practice hitherto with reference to such grants has been to circulate notices to Members of this House giving reasons for the moving of such grants. I do not know why it has not been done so now; at any rate, I have not received any such notice, nor do I know whether my hon. Colleagues have received such notices. What I wish to urge is that the supply of such notices to Members of this House will facilitate the transaction of the business, and I hope my hon. Friend the Minister for Public Health will follow this procedure in future."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I understand it has been circulated."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I did not receive it."

(Voices :—Nor have we received.)

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" This was received by us only yesterday and with your permission I wish to know if I can move a token cut under this grant just to raise the question of the Women and Children's Hospital at Mangalore. Of course I have not had sufficient time to study this question and being new I wish to know if you can grant me permission to move a token cut of Re. 1."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" May I know the point which you want to raise ? "

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" The point, Sir, is that the Government have not been dealing satisfactorily with this scheme at Mangalore and I wish to bring the urgency of the matter to the notice of the Government."

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* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I do not know exactly what my hon. Friend's wish is. I did not hear him properly."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" I wish to say only this much : that the Government were prepared some time ago to spend Rs. 1,00,000 or more on the District Headquarters Hospital at Mangalare but now what has been done is that the municipality of Mangalore of which I happen to be a member has given a very liberal donation of Rs. 20,000. The people of Mangalore, as the hon. the Minister for Public Health has stated, contributed a sum of Rs. 30,000 and yet a fight has been going on for some time between the Government and the people on this matter. The Government have been saying all along that they will spend only as much as the people have subscribed, that is, Rs. 30,000 and nothing more, whereas the municipality and the public have been saying that they (the Government) must give as much as both the municipality and the people have subscribed together which comes to about Rs. 50,000. I may say from my personal knowledge of the hospital that the conditions there are very bad, and when the Government are prepared to spend lakhs and lakhs on other schemes, on a vital matter like this I say that the Government should be more liberal than they have been in the past. Formerly it was estimated that a sum of Rs. 80,000 or a lakh would be required for a properly well-equipped hospital. Now the Government are not sticking to that principle but say that they will give as much as the people have contributed, namely, Rs. 30,000, and the estimates have been cut down. With your permission I beg to request the Government to be a little more liberal and give some more money so that the hospital work might be taken up in hand and proceeded with more expeditiously. For a properly well-equipped hospital a sum of Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 60,000 will have to be contributed by Government. The sum of Rs. 30,000 contributed by the people has been lying idle in the Imperial Bank for a very long time. I regret that the Government have not been sufficiently liberal in this respect."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I say further, Sir, that the ultimate cost of the whole scheme will come to about Rs. 81,650 ? We have already got Rs. 30,000 by way of public subscription. The municipality of Mangalore have contributed a sum of Rs. 20,000 and the Government propose to contribute a sum of Rs. 30,000. That makes up the total of Rs. 80,000 altogether. I do not think that the Government need contribute anything more. The amount is quite adequate. If the hon. Member suggests any improvements in the hospital scheme, I am quite prepared to consider them."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I point out that the difficulty in connection with this scheme arises on account of the fact that the municipality have not sufficient money for acquiring the lands that are necessary for the extension of the hospital ? At the beginning it was estimated that the cost of the acquisition of lands would come to Rs. 20,000. Now it is clear that it comes to Rs. 6,000 more. The Government have already promised to give a sufficient amount for acquiring all the lands that are necessary. In a matter like this the Government must come half-way as promised in the beginning. The municipality and the public have together contributed a sum of Rs. 50,000. The Government should surely find out the necessary money for securing all the lands that are necessary for the

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scheme. May I know whether the estimate has been cut down ? At any rate, in order that the houses which are infected with plague and which are situated within the vicinity of the hospital may be removed and the sites on which these houses were situated acquired, some more money is quite essential from the Government. I think if the scheme should really be useful, it would cost at least Rs. 1 lakh. I do not really understand the usefulness of this small sum of Rs. 100. Will it enable us to commence the operation ? I therefore hope that the hon. Minister will be kind enough to circulate a note and explain the position so that we may consider the whole thing to-morrow."

* Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi :—"In support of the two previous speakers, I like to make a few observations. I am of opinion that all the district hospitals should be properly equipped and staffed on the most up-to-date lines so that the women and the children of those districts may have the benefit of the most up-to-date treatment for their ailments because, we medical people in Madras very often get cases from the mufassal that have been badly handled and treated. Also you know, as well as I do, that any money spent on the health of women and children of the country is an asset to the State. So, with great pleasure, I support the kind suggestions made by the hon. Members of the House"

* Mr. A. B. Shetty :—"Matters will become clearer, if we know what amount has been provided in the coming budget for the hospital extension, because the public of Mangalore have already subscribed Rs. 30,000 and the Government have promised an equivalent sum and over Rs. 8 ,000 are required for the whole scheme. The acquisition of land has been valued at Rs. 26,550, out of which the municipality has contributed a sum of Rs. 20,000. If the Government are for the present pleased to sanction a further sum of Rs 6,550 at least, I suppose it will meet to some extent the demand of the people as well as the Hospital Extension Committee."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—"I might say a few words on the financial aspect of this question. The hon. Member from South Kanara informed the House that his information was to the effect that it was quite possible that the land would cost more than what was anticipated in the present budget proposals. The Government have not any information nor have they received any communication from the municipality as to whether there is any likelihood of the price of the land going higher than it is at present. But if and when such a contingency arises, it will be open to us to re-examine the whole question. This is a token demand to inform the Municipal Council that the scheme has the approval of the Legislative Council. Our intention is to place in the budget of the following year a sum of Rs. 30,000. Now, it is proposed to go on incurring expenditure and use for that 1-15
purpose the funds at the disposal of the Municipal Council. We have no p.m.
authority to permit the Municipal Council to embark upon this scheme without knowing beforehand that this Council would agree to grant Rs. 30,000 to the scheme which we propose to place in the next year's budget. That is why we come before the House with the scheme in its present form which includes everything that the Surgeon-General considers essential at the present moment. But whether that will be eventually considered sufficient is another matter on which I am quite unable to enlighten the House. But the vote of the House on this demand is necessary to inform the Municipal

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Council that they may proceed with the scheme and that the Council have approved our action in putting a sum of Rs. 30,000 towards the scheme in the budget for the coming year."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, on a point of order, I have heard of token motions for reduction of grants moved by the Government. This is the first time—I speak subject to correction—that I hear of a token supplementary demand moved by the Government. I do believe—again I am speaking subject to correction—that it is not open to the Treasury Benches to move a token supplementary demand and tell the House that it is not really Rs. 100 that they want, but Rs. 30,000. Government come to the House and say, 'We want you to commit yourself to this policy which we want to pursue, and therefore we want your vote for this token demand'. This is a very important point of constitutional practice; and I should like, Sir, that the Advocate-General is consulted, if necessary, and a ruling is given by you. In its exercise of the financial powers, this House will vote for a grant only if it is satisfied that the purpose for which the grant is required comes within the purview of the functions of the Local Government, that the money is required for that purpose, and lastly, that every pie of that money so granted will be spent for that purpose, and not for any other. As my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar suggested, if a demand is moved for a specific sum of money, we can move for reduction of the amount by specific sums by discussing the merits of the various items included therein. Such a course is not possible now, when only a token demand is moved. I am afraid, Sir, that this will be setting a dangerous constitutional precedent, by asking the House to commit itself blindfold to an expenditure of a large sum of money by means of a token demand. I submit for your ruling whether this demand, in the light of the remarks made by the hon. the Finance Member, is not inconsistent with the Government of India Act, the Rules and the Standing Orders, which require that a supplementary demand should be moved in the same manner as a budget demand, and should be discussed in the same manner as budget demands are discussed. I submit, Sir, that the token demand now submitted for our consideration is entirely out of order."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, I wish to add one or two more reasons to what have already been adduced by the hon. Member for the University. Budget motions are always moved by the non-official Members either for the omission of a grant or for the reduction of the same. It is not open to a non-official Member of the Council to recommend expenditure without the sanction of His Excellency, and such sanction is accorded only to Members of the Government who are responsible for the administration. It is open to non-official Members to move motions for the omission or the reduction of a grant or to move token motions for reduction which might be taken as censure motions on the Government. As far as my knowledge goes —of course my knowledge is limited to the procedure in this Council and I have also read about the procedure in Parliament--I have not heard of token motions being moved by responsible Ministers of the Government. The point raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Satyamurti, is very sound. The hon. Minister, I submit, should come forward with a demand for a specific sum of money and, as it is, the token motion is out of order. This Council has no power to consider a motion of that kind."

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* The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" May I suggest that the consideration of this question be postponed to the last day of this sitting ? "

* The hon. the President :—" The question before the House is the point of order. Has the hon. Member anything to say on that point ? "

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Sir, may I explain the matter ? We have got money and we can go on with the municipal contribution of Rs. 20,000 and the public subscription of Rs 30,000. We can start the work at once ; we only want the authority to go on, so that the Government might give a share of the cost to the Municipal Council, and a sum of Rs. 30,000 may be provided in the budget for the next year. At present we have got money to carry on the work."

* Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" The hon. Minister's statement has amply supported my contention. This is a token motion in form and substance. He wants Rs. 100 in order to enable his Government to contribute Rs. 30,000 to the scheme for the next year. There cannot be a clearer vindication of the principle I am contending for. What you really want is to commit the House to an expenditure of Rs. 30,000 by means of a nominal demand of Rs. 100."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" Sir, I expected that the hon. Member for Malabar or the hon. Member for the University would suggest what procedure ought to have been adopted."

* Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" The hon. Minister in charge of the department might have come with a demand for a specific sum of Rs. 30,000."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" Perhaps, in what I am going to say I would be repeating myself. May I explain the scheme once again ? This is a scheme for the extension and improvement of the Government Women and Children's Hospital at Mangalore. The municipality and the citizens of the place have between them found a total sum of Rs. 50,000 which is now available for expenditure. It has been agreed that the Government, with the sanction of the Legislative Council, should contribute towards that scheme, which is estimated to cost approximately Rs. 80,000, the balance of Rs. 30,000. It is desirable on all grounds, both because the scheme has been hanging fire for some time and because the subscribers to this fund are very anxious to see that the work is immediately started. . . . . . ."

* Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" The hon. Member is speaking on the merits of the question. It is only the point of order that is before the House."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" I am not sure why I should be interrupted, Sir. I am trying to explain the position and leading up to the point of order. It is proposed to place in the budget of the coming year a sum of Rs. 30,000 against this scheme, with the consent of the Legislative Council. It is also desirable to proceed with the scheme now, because the money is available. It was perfectly open to my hon. Colleague to have come forward to the Council with a supplementary demand for Rs. 30,000. But the sum at the disposal of the Municipal Council cannot be spent in the short time that is available. It is therefore unnecessary for the Government to do more now than give its assent to proceed with the scheme now. Funds are available now for all the expenditure which is necessary during the current year. The grant is brought before the Legislative Council in order to secure their assent to the scheme. My hon. Colleague might have come forward with a

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demand for Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 5,000 or a larger sum and the balance of Rs. 29,000 or Rs. 25,000 would be provided in the next year's budget. I wish the hon. Member for the University or the hon. Member for Malabar had suggested which figure would have made this grant regular. I submit that we are not attempting to get money from the House without letting the House know what commitments they are thereby accepting. We are merely asking for a grant of Rs. 100 in order to regularise the position. Only Rs. 100 of Government money will be spent on the scheme this year. With the assent of the House to the scheme, the Government will place in the budget for the coming year against the scheme the balance of Rs. 29,900 or whatever it might happen to be. I submit there is no irregularity of any kind. If the House does not accept this motion now, we can only tell the Municipal Council of Mangalore that we have failed to get the assent of the House to the scheme in the current year, and that we propose to put the whole total of Rs. 30,000, or whatever the contribution may happen to be, before the House as a Part II scheme for the next year. Personally, I cannot see any irregularity in the grant. Since funds are available, it is quite unnecessary to ask for more than Rs. 100 for the current year. I submit again, Sir, that there is no irregularity in the procedure at all."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, I thought the matter was simple and I did not quote the rules regarding this matter. Under rule 26 (2) of the Legislative Council Rules, each demand shall contain first a statement of the total grant proposed, and then a statement of the detailed estimate under each grant divided into items. Again, Sir, under rule 32, which deals with supplementary or additional grants, an estimate shall be presented to the Council for a supplementary or additional grant when (i) the amount voted in the Budget of a grant is found to be insufficient for the purposes of the current year, or (ii) a need arises during the current year for expenditure for which the vote of the Council is necessary upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year.

1-30 p.m. " Now, Sir, if my hon. Friend, the Finance Member, or the Minister, contends that it comes under sub-clause (ii), i.e., the need arises during the current year for expenditure on which the vote of the Council is necessary upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year, I can understand that. Then, Sir, sub-clause (3) says ' supplementary or additional estimates shall be dealt with in the same way by the Council as if they were demands for grants '. If you take that phrase along with the definition of what each demand shall contain under rule 26—each demand shall contain first a statement of the total grant proposed and then a statement of the detailed estimate under each grant divided into items—this House has got the right to deal with it under sub-clause (3) of rule 32. This supplementary demand is, I think, like an original demand and an original demand should contain a statement of the total grant proposed and a statement of the detailed estimate under the grant divided into items.

" If you look at the functions of the Public Accounts Committee as mentioned in rule 34, they are to the effect that it shall be the duty of the Committee to bring to the notice of the Council every reappropriation from one grant to another grant, every reappropriation within a grant which is not made in accordance with the rules regulating the functions of the Finance Department, or which has the effect of increasing the expenditure on an item the provision for which has been specifically reduced by a vote of the

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Council. Besides this Rs. 100, how much more will be spent nobody knows. On what particular item it will be spent, we do not know. We are told that this expenditure is intended to commit us to a further expenditure in the next year's budget. Probably in the financial millennium which the hon. the Finance Member contemplates, it may be possible for the Treasury Bench, without moving for a particular grant, since a small grant has been approved by this House, to introduce next year lump grants, and say 'you have committed yourselves to this grant and you cannot go back on it'."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" Sir, that is not our purpose."

* Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" What is the purpose of this grant? The hon. the Minister tells this House 'we want Rs. 100 now, and we want your vote on this grant, in order to include in the next year's budget Rs. 29,900 to be spent on the scheme'. By all means, do it; but do not make us parties to it. The time will come when this demand will come before the House. Then it is open for us to deal with it as we please, omit it, reduce it or do what we like. The Government want us to give our vote on this demand, in order to encourage their attempt to introduce into the budget an additional allotment. This is putting the cart before the horse. Why does the hon. the Minister want this House to commit itself to a large amount in the next year's budget in a round-about way? It seems to me that it is unprecedented in this Council to get a token motion like this passed, and to commit ourselves for an expenditure during the coming year, without knowing the whole budget and how much we can spend on this item. It may be that this item is very good; but what guarantee is there that there will not be more pressing items in the budget? Therefore, I do suggest that, both on grounds of constitutional propriety, and also on grounds of the rules of the House, it is very necessary that such demands should not be placed before us in an incomplete form, asking us to commit ourselves to a procedure which will set at nought the rules and functions of this House and of the Public Accounts Committee. Though this is a small sum, I oppose the motion on the ground that each demand, whether it is supplementary or original, has got to contain a statement of the total grant proposed and a statement of the detailed estimate under each grant divided into items. If the hon. the Finance Member had not let the cat out of the bag and simply said that they want a sum of Rs. 100, we could have given it. But, as a matter of fact, he does not want this sum of Rs. 100. They want this sum of Rs. 100 in order to get the House indirectly to commit itself to a provision of Rs. 29,900 being made in the next year's budget. I am objecting to this procedure. If the provision is put merely on a matter of fact, we can consider it on its merits. If a sum of Rs. 100 is required for paying coolies' wages, or for brick or mortar for that hospital, I can understand. That means that the rest of the grant will be considered on its own merits. Stated in the form in which it is stated by the hon. the Minister and the hon. the Finance Member, I think it infringes the well-known functions of this House and will lead to dangerous paths over which we may have no control later on."

* Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastriyar :—" Sir, I wish to say a word on the way in which I understand the nature of the motion before I speak on the technical aspect of the matter raised by my hon. Friend, the Member for the University."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Will the hon. Member take a very long time ?"

* Mr. T. R. VENKATARAMA SASTRIYAR :—" I propose to be very short. I take it that in case the Council has already voted a sum of money on a service and if the Government find that more money is required, they can come forward with a supplementary demand asking for the additional sum of money required. In a case in which the matter has not been placed before the House at the time of the budget and the Government have to ask for the first time for a sum of money on such a service, it is open to them to do so under sub-clause (ii) of the rule to which the hon. Member for the University referred. This case happens to be somewhat peculiar, and therefore a sum of Rs. 100 only has been asked for by the hon. Minister. Objection is taken to the demand because it lends itself to the description of a token motion. I understand the motion in this way. Even according to sub-clause (ii) of rule 32 to which my hon. Friend referred, the motion asks for the amount which the Government require to spend on a service in the course of the year. If more money is to be expended—it is expected to be expended not in this year but in the next year--then it will be included in the regular budget for the next year. As it happens in this case, the service is not one without money on hand to put the work through. There is a sum of Rs. 50,000 available. That sum of money is not in the control of this Council. This House has to grant its permission under sub-clause (ii) of the rule referred to and vote this sum of Rs. 100 so that the sum of Rs. 50,000 may be used for the purpose. It is for that purpose that this demand is placed before the Council by the hon. the Minister. A sum of Rs. 100 is asked for, because a sum of Rs. 50,000 is already on hand and it can be used for the purpose."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am sorry I have to interrupt the hon. Member. May I ask for some information? Is this sum of Rs. 100 required for paying coolies' wages or for buying brick and mortar or for some other specific purpose ? "

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" This is a matter which is governed by the grant-in-aid rules. A sum of Rs. 30,000 will be eventually placed, if this demand is passed by the Legislative Council, at the disposal of the Municipal Council or other agency which happens to be entrusted with the construction of the work."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I think that some of the hon. Members are wandering from the point. The point raised is whether this motion is in order or not. Argument may be confined to that point."

* Mr. T. R. VENKATARAMA SASTRIYAR :—" Sir, it strikes me that this is an attempt to fight merely over the words 'token motion'. I do not wish to be drawn into a discussion whether this is strictly a token motion and whether as such, it is permissible to place it before the House. I am dealing with the question from the point of view I have stated already."

* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Sir, a point of order has been raised and the hon. the Advocate-General is certainly not in order if he goes on discussing whether this motion is to be treated as a token motion or not. It was mentioned by the hon. the Finance Member that it was a token motion and we are discussing the question whether it can be moved by the Treasury Bench. The point whether this is a token motion or not does not arise."

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* Mr. T. R. VENKATARAMA SASTRIYAR :—" I understand the motion, as it stands on the paper, in a particular way. Each particular Member understands the motion in his own way. I am making my remarks in accordance with the way in which I understand the nature of the motion. If it is a new service for which some money is required, it is conceded that this motion is in order under rule 32 (ii). If a sum of Rs. 100 is asked for, it is for this purpose. An explanatory note regarding this demand has been circulated to the hon. Members. It is unfortunate that it is not in the hands of every hon. Member of this House. A sum of Rs. 50,000 has already been contributed. We want a sum of Rs. 100 in this year for the purpose of starting the work. I submit that under rule 32—I find the same provisions are given in paragraph 111 of the Legislative Council Instructions—that a motion can be made for a service for which no provision has already been made in the budget. What the hon. Minister says is that he has got Rs. 50,000 and if a sum of Rs. 100 is voted, the work can be started with the sum of Rs. 50,100. I do not see any reason why he should not ask for this sum of Rs. 100. The hon. Member for the University thinks that the hon. the Minister wants not Rs. 100 but Rs. 30,000. I do not think that the motion asks for any sum more than Rs. 100."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" A reference has been made to Parliamentary practice. May's Parliamentary Practice, pages 501 and 529, point to token motions being moved in Parliament. Pages 51 and 56 of Durell on Parliamentary Grants also refer to such token motions. It has been suggested that no such practice ever existed in this House; but a reference to the proceedings of this House, Volume XXVI, shows that a token motion was made for a Tuberculosis Hospital and the question was distinctly raised by the hon. Member Mr. Krishnan Nayar ' may I know why a sum of Rs. 100 only is asked for ' and the hon. Sir A. P. Patro said that this token motion was intended to obtain the approval of the House to the scheme.

" So the question of practice is quite clear, that on previous occasions this House has been allowing such motions. 1-45 p.m.

" Now coming to the rules, rule 32, sub-clause (1) (ii) really indicates that any new scheme, if it requires the approval of the House, should be put before the House as a supplementary demand. In this connexion, I wish to point out that in any demand there are two questions that are concerned. First the amount to be granted, secondly the sanction for the scheme. Now, the amount demanded is only Rs. 100. It may be a token amount or a real amount. We are not concerned with it; but the question whether a new scheme, when it requires the sanction of the House, can be put forward before the House in the form of a token motion comes under rule 32, sub-clause (1) (ii). Of course, it is regrettable that the explanatory note that has been furnished to the Legislative Council office has not been circulated to the Members. It was just now brought to my notice that this explanatory note, though it was sent to the Legislative Council office some three or four days back, was placed on the table only to-day.

" It has been distinctly stated on behalf of the Government that they are coming forward with a demand for a substantial amount in the budget for 1927-28.

" I hold that the motion is in order."

At this stage (at 1-50 p.m.) the House adjourned for lunch.

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After Lunch (2-30 p.m.).

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Mr. President, Sir, as I understand from the debate on the demand for Rs. 100, the grant thereof by this House does not seem to be so easy as the hon. the Finance Member guesses. It seems it is a sort of triangular combination of facts, in that the municipality has undertaken to acquire some site at a cost of Rs. 20,000, the people have undertaken to contribute Rs. 30,000 and we are expecting that the Government would give them a grant equal to this consolidated sum of Rs. 50,000, i.e., Rs. 30,000 by the people and Rs. 20,000 by the municipality. The site has not been yet acquired. Even the explanatory note tells us that there is a possibility of the cost of acquiring land being enhanced. The municipality is either unwilling or unable to meet this demand and there will also be a suit if this site is given by the Revenue authorities under the Land Acquisition Act for a lower sum than the private parties demand. That is the position, Sir, in Mangalore, so far as the Women and Children's Hospital is concerned. Let not the hon. the Finance Member tell either this House or the people of Mangalore that this House is unwilling to lend its support to a scheme like that of the Women and Children's Hospital extension scheme. On the other hand, it will unanimously vote, if need be, that that scheme should at once be taken up. All that the hon. Members from South Kanara, Mangalore and other places, have told us this morning is this : We on our side are willing and ready to contribute as much as it is possible for us to contribute. In fact, we have contributed Rs. 30,000 and the municipality has contributed Rs. 20,000. But the private parties are demanding at least Rs. 6,000 more for the site, and perhaps a little more. Let the Government bear the additional cost, whatever it be, i.e., anything more than the Rs. 30,000 out of the Rs. 80,000 and odd estimated by the Government through its officers. Let the Government undertake that it will be ready and willing to contribute whatever will be necessary to make the scheme a complete success. That is where we stand, Sir. Now, we are suddenly asked for this Rs. 100 merely with a view perhaps to get the Rs. 29,000 and odd later on. If the hon. the Minister will assure us that whatever more will be necessary to make the scheme a successful one at the earliest possible opportunity will be met by the Government, then it will be possible for us to vote in favour of the demand; but he has not undertaken to do so. I therefore request, before further discussion is carried on on this subject, that being a useful measure and seeing also that those in authority assure us that more money might be required to have an up-to-date modern treatment in the hospital, the Government should be willing to contribute whatever amount is required over and above the Rs. 20,000 contributed by the municipality, whether it be for the acquisition of site or for the construction of buildings or the equipment of the hospital."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, as far as we are aware at present, we have no reason to anticipate any further demand. About the possibility of the land acquisition costing more, we are prepared to consider it if the necessity arises ; but at present we are not in a position to state that the scheme is going to cost more. If it should cost more, I suppose we shall have to come before the Council for a supplementary demand later on."

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Mr. K. R. KARANT:—" Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about the estimates which have been now placed before the House, of Rs. 80,000, out of which about Rs. 30,000 will go towards land acquisition itself. Last year or so, better estimates were prepared and it is because the Government were not prepared to pay more than Rs. 30,000 that they were all cut down, and the present estimates are, in my humble opinion, rather very meagre. The total number of beds were cut down and such other things were done. I am not prepared to obstruct the motion ; in fact I am anxious as much as the hon. the Minister that something must be done at an early date, so that the work may be undertaken. I wish to submit that the estimates may be revised, if necessary, and that the Government must be prepared to spend more on this scheme."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" A word of explanation, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is it a personal explanation ?"

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Sir, the hon. the Minister was pleased to say that I made a reference to land acquisition, and all that, as though I was drawing from my imagination or from private information ; but in the explanatory note, in the last two lines on the first page it is stated :

'The cost of acquiring the land required for the scheme is now estimated at Rs. 26,550, but it is stated that there is the possibility of this amount being enchanced if a reference is made to the civil court in connexion with the acquisition proceedings '."

The demand was adopted and the grant was made.

Grant XXVI.

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, in moving

'*that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs.* 1,600 *under* "*Industries — Transferred* — 35 (*b*) *Industries — Industries* — (1) *Direction*" '

for the employment of a special officer to carry out a survey of cottage industries in the Presidency, I beg your permission to make a few observations. Sir, it is very necessary that there should be a proper survey of cottage industries in the Presidency, both existing and potential. We will have to carry on this survey, so that we may have some idea as to what cottage industries are capable of further improvement and also as to what scope there is for other industries to be promoted. We thought at first of carrying on this survey with the assistance of the existing staff, but we found it could not be done ; and, I think, you will also agree with me in feeling that for a work of this sort a special officer would be more desirable. So, in order to enable us to have a special officer employed on this work, I have come before this House for the grant, which I move."

* Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" Mr. President, Sir, I propose a token cut of Re. 1 under this demand for supplementary demand under 'Industries' for the employment of a special officer, just to bring to the notice of this hon. House the necessity for a real survey, for an effective survey, and not for a farce of a survey of the cottage industries. If I am asked to give my opinion on this question, on which I should say I am an authority (Hear, hear), cottage industries in one district alone would take about Rs. 16,000 for survey. The Government have now come forward asking for a grant of Rs. 1,600 for a special officer for a period of six months. I say, Sir, that cottage industries are not to be seen in the bazaars. They

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are industries which can be seen only in the villages. I shall give at least half a dozen instances of cottage industries in my village. There is a place next to Madura, 2 miles east of it, where they make the best balances which can be used for all scientific purposes in learned laboratories, and they cost, Sir, only Rs. 2-8-0. They make soda water openers and all wooden materials in a small place where I do not know if anybody has gone to see and verify what sort of industry that is. Sir, there are numerous cottage industries. Horn snuff boxes and horn fountain pen cases are made in Kadayam. We can multiply instances of hundreds of villages where there are hundreds of industries which can be developed, if the Government only care to do it. Sir, my surprise is that the hon. Minister for Development has asked only for a humble grant of Rs. 1,600 for a special officer to be employed, and that to be spread over a period of six months. I want to know how many villages he is going to see. I am asked to work for a lottery with a sum of Rs. 3,000 and a car to visit two districts for two months. Your officer who is called an expert officer, an officer who is to make a survey of industries in the whole Presidency with 42 millions of people, in the course of six months, is to spend only Rs. 1,600. It is a thing never heard of in the annals of any administration. Be sincere, be straightforward and ask for a grant and say, 'we are going to make a real survey of the cottage industries in the Presidency and we want so many lakhs'. What is the meaning of this motion? Is it simply to make the people believe that you want to have a real development in the cottage industries, or is it to write on a piece of paper and say: 'we want a demand, we are going to make a development in cottage industries'? Sir, Government will be trusted, Government will be respected, if really their intentions are honest and bona fide.

2-45 p.m. "Sir, I want you to come and ask for a specially big amount spread up. Divide the whole Presidency at least into eight or nine blocks and let the survey be made. Cottage industries cannot be surveyed by a single man. We may employ all the revenue inspectors in the district, ask them to go to such and such centres and find out what the cottage industries there are. You may spend the money in that way. After all, what will your special officer do? He will finally come to me in this way. He will first go to the tahsildar, the tahsildar will go to the revenue inspector, the revenue inspector will go to the village munsif and the village munsif will come to me. This is the way how your information is collected. Sir, I feel very much in this matter as I want that a real attempt should be made to survey cottage industries in the districts. There are many cottage industries and if you really want to shape those industries, do something to these industries, and have a real survey. I only pray that this token motion for a cut of Re. 1 be passed."

* Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"Sir, I quite sympathise with the hon. Minister for Development. I fail, however, to understand the significance of a grant for an amount of Rs. 1,600. I feel, Sir, that this subject . ."

The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"Probably, Sir, if I am allowed to speak at this stage we may avoid further discussion. I am partly responsible, I think, for the misapprehension that some hon. Members are labouring under that I have asked for this allotment of Rs. 1,600 to cover the cost of the pay, etc., for a special officer for six months. It is not so. This year we shall have to pay for one month, that is the pay due for the

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month of February which will have to be paid in the month of March. The subsequent pay will come only in the next year's budget. That is the reason why I asked only for a grant of Rs. 1,600. I may observe that this item is for six months in the first instance. I quite see the magnitude of the task and it is not my idea to send a sort of roving commission all over the province perhaps producing results which may not be quite satisfactory. With the permission of the House I should like to have these surveys conducted and at the same time have reports from month to month as to the work so that we may really see how far these surveys could be carried on effectively and properly and if at the end of six months the House would be of opinion that these surveys should be carried on or continued for some period, with the enthusiasm evinced by the speakers whom we have listened to, I should be glad indeed to get more. I hope that the hon. Members will be satisfied with this assurance and pass this grant."

* Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" Sir, will the hon. the Minister kindly explain what he is exactly going to do? Will he have a number of men going to the villages and collecting information or will he get information departmentally, as my Friend said, from the tahsildars and revenue inspectors and so on? As has been observed, we are very glad that the hon. the Minister has taken this step. This is a step in the right direction and the House, I think, would be prepared to vote any amount of money provided the hon. Minister will lay bare his plans before this House. Of course, he has asked for a grant, but he has not explained the scheme he is going to adopt. All that he has said is that he is going to collect information. Well and good. But what is the means he will adopt in collecting this information and what is the aim with which this information is going to be collected? If the hon. the Minister kindly explains himself further and, as in the case of the Mangalore Women's hospital, he is going to state what is the probable amount that he is prepared to spend on the scheme, it would be more satisfactory. No doubt, he said that he wants this amount for the current year and that he would ask for more afterwards. But he has not given us any idea as to what would be the probable amount of expenditure and the time required for the completion of the survey. Of course, he said he would call for reports from time to time. It is well and good. But what is the time during which he wants to collect all this information and what is the amount he is going to spend and would he also mind having a small committee by way of giving advice with regard to collecting information and the way in which it ought to be collected, to which particular direction the attention of the hon. Minister should be directed and all that? I think he would have no objection to this advisory committee. It would perhaps be better if hon. Members here who are conversant with the matter would help the hon. Minister in this respect, and the House would be quite glad to sanction any amount."

* Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" Sir, I was disturbed when I was speaking."

* The hon. the President :—" I thought the hon. Member had finished his speech."

* Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" I was interrupted in the middle of my speech, Sir."

* The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member need not have resumed his seat unless the President called upon another Member that got up to make

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speech. When a Member yields like that, the President is justified in presuming that he has finished his speech. As he is a new Member, I would allow him to proceed."

*Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" I was saying that I was surprised to find that the hon. Minister had asked for a sum of Rs. 1,600 for this purpose. He has been kind enough to explain what he meant, by saying that this is salary and expenses for the special officer for one month, for this month, and he has also been kind enough to tell us that he contemplates asking for more in the budget for the next five months. I believe this again is a kind of a token motion, though the Minister was careful enough not to put it as a token motion. The difficulty has again arisen that the whole scheme is not before us, that we are unable to make up our minds as to what the Minister has in his mind with regard to the method of carrying out the scheme. We have had experience of such investigations and the hon. Minister remembers what investigations have meant, investigations made by Irrigation committees and commissions. and therefore, I believe, this House would not be prepared to make a grant offhand in this manner for a mere special officer. I had sent in a resolution myself asking for a committee of representatives of the Ceded Districts to investigate into a similar matter, the possibilities of cottage industries in those districts, because I believe without supplementary avocation to the ryots and also revived avocations to the artisans, that are now thrown out of employment, famine would always be staring us in the face. Well, the hon. Minister has not taken us into his confidence and told us what exactly he intends doing, how far non-official agency, especially the agency of this House as members, will be utilized for this purpose, whether his scheme is merely a scheme of appointing a special officer whose duty will be to sit in his office and report matters by correspondence, whether the special officer would go about and take evidence on questions relating to cottage industries publicly and openly, and whether his recommendations would be subject to revision by this House. All these are questions that arise before money is voted for a scheme like this, and with the experience we have had of official business all these years, it is difficult for men like me to make up our minds to sanction a grant like this. I know the hon. Minister for Development is an enthusiast and certainly he has in his mind the welfare and happiness of the people, especially of my districts—and I am proud to say that he belongs to my district, not because he is a Minister but because he is a public worker. If this motion is carried in the proper spirit, if he is prepared to do his part of it in a spirit of enthusiasm for the amelioration of the depressed condition of the people of our country, I would certainly feel that he is proceeding in the right direction. But in the absence of a statement on the points mentioned by me, it is impossible to make up our minds on the matter of this grant."

*Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Mr. President, Sir, we on this side of the House who have known our hon. Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, cannot impute to him anything but ardent anxiety to revive the cottage industries of this province. Our trouble therefore is not that he has asked for Rs. 1,600 but that he has not asked for more. So far as this amount of Rs. 1,600 is concerned we are entirely with him, but we do not want that enquiries should be conducted, farcical surveys like the primary education survey supposed to have been conducted be done in this case. In many enquiries and surveys we find that there are some districts which have

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been neglected always as a matter of course. I for myself am quite sure, and my hon. Friends from the northern districts would bear me out, that in many activities of the Industries Department we are unknown, our districts are not thought of. We are never cared after. So we should like to know in the first instance whether this is an enquiry or a survey to be conducted in all the districts of this Presidency with an eye towards the possible cottage industries. Secondly, Sir, spinning has been recognised even by the ex-Minister, Sir A. P. Patro, who when he was on the Treasury Bench had not that sympathy though it is one of the important industries with all possibilities to provide work in the slack seasons in the villages. That I take is one of the items of the enquiry and I may assure hon. Members that no other district except my district, Ganjam, will come to the first place so far as this industry is concerned. Then again, weaving is another allied industry. Some attempts were made for getting information for developing weaving industry in my district and I know nothing was finally done. Similarly there are various other industries which are nascent and if some attempt is made to revive them they will be prosperous. So I should like to know from the hon. the Development Minister whether they are deputing officers with instructions. I do not want random enquiries to be made round the districts, as has been described by my hon. Friend Mr. Tulasiram. So I would implore the hon. Minister for Development to give us some idea or at least his ideas and opinions of the nature of the enquiry, so that we may follow him in his motion for the grant.

"Thirdly, certain suggestions were made for a committee. I am not at all for a committee of this House, because survey is to be conducted in the districts, in the villages of the mufassal. If a committee is necessary, I think, a committee of the people of a certain district or if possible a committee of people having anything to do with industries in all districts may be thought of and the services of the hon. Members of this House representing various districts may be supplemented. If an advisory committee is at all necessary, such committee as I have suggested may be of some use. But I am not sure whether an advisory committee of some Members of this House would be of any avail.

"Fourthly, Sir, six months, I think, is too long a period and if at all, we should like to have a final report by the end of the six months. The term of this Council is after all three years. If we get a report after six months it will take some time for consideration and take more time for putting the recommendations of the report into operation. I would implore the hon. the Minister for Development to quicken and try to undertake the survey as soon as possible with as many people as are necessary for this purpose. If for this more money is required, it will be our pleasure to help him and sanction the grant." 3 p.m.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"I am glad the hon. Minister for Development has undertaken a survey of the cottage industries in this Presidency. At the same time it must be stated that he has not bestowed attention on the manner in which the survey ought to be conducted and the likely period during which the survey should be conducted. All the same, Sir, we are willing to sanction the employment of a special officer. But may I know if the officer will have a special aptitude for work of this kind or will he be called special officer because he has got to do special work. Experience has shown that in cases where a knowledge of the industries is

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necessary or where a gentleman possessing technical qualifications is required an I.C.S. officer or some other gentleman is posted. We desire that the hon. Minister must make a departure, if that was the custom hitherto, by appointing a gentleman possessing special aptitude in carring out work of this kind."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" Mr. President, Sir, we are labouring under a very serious difficulty with regard to this queston. If, as some of my friends put it, the Government is really serious about reviving the cottage industries that once existed in this Presidency and also investigating into the further possibility of introducing new industries with benefit to this Presidency, I do really think that a provision of this sort is not sufficient. A thorough survey has first to be made of the possibility of reviving some industries which had once existed, and also introducing new industries that flourish elsewhere. All these things should be thoroughly investigated and this, I believe, will take a longer time than six months as also a larger amount than the one asked for. I will give only one instance. In this connexion it would be necessary that the special officer, whoever he may be, whether official or non-official—he must be a non-official with an aptitude, technical knowledge and experience in simlar investigations—must be sent out beyond this Presidency to investigate what other provinces have done in this matter and how other provinces are thriving. For instance, in Assam, I was told that there is probably no one in the whole province who is in want of labour. That is, I am told, due to the excellent way in which every family without distinction of caste or colour, without regard to their wealth, whether rich or poor, has taken to the silk industry. It is just possible, by adopting that industry into this Presidency, something could be done. But without that officer going to Assam and finding out the means they employ, if he produces a report, I do not think that report will be satisfactory. I believe if the Government are really serious they will take all these aspects into consideration and make a serious attempt to do something in order to help the labouring poor in this Presidency. Especially this is the time for it because famine is staring in almost every district of the Presidency. This will give us a great impetus to revive some industries that have died out and to investigate the possibilities of introducing some industries which could be adopted into this Presidency. I hope the new Ministry who have taken seriously, I believe, to the possibility of reviving and introducing new industries as cottage industries will do their utmost, and I do not think we need grudge the very small amount they have asked for in this demand."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" Mr. President, Sir, I regret to note that our Cabinet Members do so little to enlighten us as to their supplementary grants. They do not take us into confidence in regard to the details. Now there are cottage industries and cottage industries. I want to know what cottage industries the hon. Minister for Develpment has in view. There are dozens of industries that occur to us that ought to be taken up in this Presidency. Poultry rearing seems to be a subsidiary industry to agriculture. Coir matting and coir-rope making is another kind. I want also to know whether there is any sort of prejudice against certain industries smacking of politics. The late Minister had a dread of the charka and he prohibited teaching of spinning in schools unless it is auxiliary to weaving. I think the Finance Member it was that said that teaching of Charka should be

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auxiliary to weaving. From my own experience and from the visits I paid recently in the villages of the South Kanara district I found that spinning, for instance, might be spread as an industry by itself. In the village of Neeleswar which I visited with my Swarajist friends, with whom I am not ashamed to go, to see the activities of the Agricultural department I saw the activities of the spinning association for encouraging spinning and weaving as cottage industries. That is the great object of this association. I hope there will be no taboo against the survey of this industry of spinning by itself. Then there is sericulture. The Mysore Government is encouraging sericulture as a cottage industry. To a great extent the silk industry of Bangalore and Mysore is conducted as a cottage industry. It is a paying industry and thousands of families are depending upon it in Mysore. It is also found in a small portion of the Coimbatore district I am at a loss to know why this industry of sericulture should not be extended to the other parts of the Madras Presidency. Well, I am not going to dwell further on this interesting point, but I am sure the hon. Minister for Industries will show his sympathy which he has already shown for all sorts of industries, agriculture especially. I am sure he will insist and I am sure the Director of Industries who has got very large experience and who is very sympathetic towards industrial development in this country will also insist that this survey is very comprehensive without tabooing any particular industry as smacking of any political or other bias. I only wish that the hon. Minister would enlighten us much more of what he has got in his mind. I am sure on this side of the House we will give him every support. I hope the survey will be a comprehensive and sympathetic one."

* Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" I have first to strike a jarring note on this side of the House as to the very meagreness of the explanatory note furnished to us by the hon. Minister for Development. The note does not make out a case for the necessity for a supplementary grant of Rs. 1,600. It is said recently the Government directed that a survey of cottage industries in the Presidency should be made. I think when the Government directed that a survey of the cottage industries should be made it must have had in mind that the existing staff was sufficient to do the task. But then the note proceeds to say that the Director of Industries was asked to carry out the survey with the existing staff. He has however reported that a survey was attempted some years ago and had to be abandoned as it could not be carried out with the existing staff. Unfortunately the report of the Director of Industries is not laid before the House. We are not allowed an opportunity to see how exactly it is not possible with the existing staff to carry out the survey. As far as I can see, and I am informed also to that effect, the existing staff ought to be able to do this survey quite apart from its regular duties. There are several officers within the Industries Department commencing from the Director of Industries down to the various experts. I should think that a survey of cottage industries must fall within the legitimate duties of either the Director of Industries or the Industrial Engineer. As far as my information goes the Department of Industries is not like the Secretariat which is supposed to be overworked. There are people there with ample leisure at their disposal, and especially the Director of Industries or the Industrial Engineer ought to be able to make this survey. Failing these there is the Textile Expert and the Leather Expert. The Leather Expert, I am told, has to teach only two or three students. In that case I do not

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see why the Leather Expert should not be asked to do this task. Besides I should also like to know as to what exactly is the scope of this department. Is it a fact that a fresh officer is going to be imported into the Industries Department or any one of the existing officers is going to be called a special officer and paid any extra special salary therefor? I am sorry that the hon. the Minister of Development has not made out a case for the necessity of this grant of Rs. 1,600. I should like to see that he throws more light on the matter."

3-15 p.m. *Mr. C. Gopala Menon :—"Mr. President, I do not think that I can add much to the speeches that have fallen from the hon. Members who have preceded me. In undertaking this survey of cottage industries, I believe, we are following the examples of other presidencies in India. Already surveys of cottage industries have been undertaken in other presidencies, and that should be in accordance with the recommendations made by the Economic Enquiry Committee whose report was published very recently. I believe the hon. the Minister for Development will probably carry out the survey in accordance with the recommendations of that Committee, and that Committee has pointed out the enormity and the difficulty of the task and the huge probability of success that awaits in the country, if a proper survey is to be carried out. There are several cottage industries which have decayed in the past, which are in the course of decaying, and which are now in existence. Therefore, I believe that the present survey which we are going to carry out will generally be with a view to resuscitate those industries which have gone out of existence and which can be resuscitated and which need help from the State in order that they may be placed within the reach of those people who are now finding it difficult to carry them on. I, therefore, think that if a survey of the proper type is carried out, it will add greatly to the benefit of the rural reconstruction work, of which, we hear so much talked about of late."

The Zamindar of Gollapalli :—"Mr. President, Sir, after all I heard from my hon. Colleagues of this House, I think the reviving of a cottage industry which is beneficial to the country need not be worked on party lines. If the grant is insufficient, the hon. the Minister will again move for a supplementary grant. Because the grant is small, we need not throw it out. So I request the House to pass the grant."

Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai :—"Coming as I do from the Nilgiris, and knowing the economic condition of the hill tribes there, who are very poor, I think it is a very good move that the hon. the Minister for Development has made to bring a proposition to revive the cottage industries and in this investigation I should like to include the Nilgiris as one of the districts, as in the previous conferences of co-operators in 1926 it was thought that sericulture and tea cultivation could be introduced there as cottage industries. So I would request the hon. the Minister to see his way to include the Nilgiris in this investigation."

The motion having been withdrawn the demand was adopted and the grant made.

Grant XXXI.

*The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—"Mr. President, I move, Sir,

'*that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs.* 3 *lakhs under "pensions"*.'

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"I think, Sir, that a note explaining the reasons for this motion had been circulated and it is in the hands of hon. Members of the House. Hon. Members who were Members of the last Council will remember that in September last a motion was made for a similar purpose. The reason why we have to come before this House for a further demand is this: previous to last year the commutation of pensions was met out of revenue, and the amount that could be spared for that purpose was determined by our financial position from time to time. The result was that we were never in a position to meet all the demands which were legitimate under the rules as they then stood. The rules have been since liberalized, for example, it is now open to retired Government servants to commute half of their pensions as against 25 per cent. Further, there has been an undoubted increase in the number of cases in which Government servants on retirement may put in such applications. Until we have some experience of the result under the new system, which on the financial side involves appropriation of loan money to the payment of these commutation amounts against the old system of meeting it from revenue, we really are not in a position to determine what the average amount for each year would be. To begin with, in the current year we have only a rough idea of the amount that would have actually been paid out of revenue if available. There has always been under the old system a considerable lag in the number of cases which could possibly be dealt with out of revenue, and we desire to clear these cases off in fairness to all retired Government servants and in order to avoid giving preference to one set of people. We are anxious to make an endeavour to deal finally with all pending cases. In order to do so, it will be necessary to find a further sum. In the current year we have available for reappropriation Rs. 1½ lakhs, and I would ask the House to sanction an additional appropriation of Rs. 3 lakhs in order to make up the total amount required. That sum will be available from loans which we have raised for other purposes but which we have not expended in the current year."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"May I know from the hon. the Finance Member what the state of our funds will be at the end of the current financial year? These three lakhs of course is not charged to revenue. But I wish to know what the exact state of our funds will be at the end of the current year if this is expended."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"The actual amount, Mr. President, which will have been raised, assuming that the present demand is granted up to the end of the current year, will be Rs. 12½ lakhs. That of course, as I said, will cover a very considerable number of cases which were accumulating from previous years. I am yet unable to say what the average will be and it will take two years or so before we are able to make a reasonable estimate of the provision which should be made in the budget for the amount for any year for this purpose. But it will obviously be something less than Rs. 12½ lakhs a year, because of the large numbers of arrear cases which were pending now in the current year. That amount we must meet from loans, under the instructions of the Government of India. Of course, against that charge it must be remembered that we are freed from the payment of that portion of the pensions which are commuted. I am not quite sure if I have told the hon. Member what he wanted to know."

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* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I have obtained only some idea of the subject. My hon. Friend himself says he is not in a position to give a more accurate idea."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Sir, I rise on this occasion more to get information on some of those points raised in this note. Information generally supplied in financial matters is very meagre so far as this Legislative Council is concerned. I beg of the hon. the Finance Member to give us more time to consider the implications resulting from supplementary grants. I find that what was hitherto charged under revenue was transferred to capital account, and the net result of that is that we have to pay more in the shape of interest so far as the revenue accounts are concerned. And if the concession to commute their pensions into capital is worked out, I do not know what will be the total charge on the revenue account every year. That is the information which we will be very glad to have. If the amount required to cover these charges from capital expenditure is large so as to increase the expenditure under revenue on interest, I suppose it is permissible for us to take objection to it, and the hon. the Finance Member to limit the grant of these applications to a particular, definite amount so as not to exceed the ordinary allotment we used to make in previous years."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"It would be perfectly open to this House to enunciate the proposition that it is not prepared to devote more funds but to grant a certain amount of money every year to deal with the demand for commutation of pensions under the rules. The effect of course would be that we should have to adopt one or other of two courses; either we should have each year to take the number of applications, see how far the demand is covered by the sum provided by the Council, and if the sum provided will meet, 25 or 30, or 35, or 50 per cent of the total applications, to deal with them on that basis. Or else, we should simply have to deal with applications as they come in one by one until the amount placed by the Legislative Council at our disposal is exhausted, and then inform other applicants that their cases would have to wait over to the following years. In the following years we should of course take up the earliest cases and deal with them again according to the amount provided by the Legislative Council. I think it would be unfair to retired Government servants and destroy the intention underlying the liberalization of the commutation rules, if we simply say that we should not provide enough money for the purpose. And in placing this demand before the Council, I assume that it would be desirable to deal with it in the same manner and in the same spirit as it did with the motion which I put before the Council last September.

"As regards the actual financial procedure on which these payments are met, I may say that it is a procedure which has been introduced in all the provinces in India under the direction of the Government of India. These charges are met from loan funds on a system of equated payments. That is a matter which is really beyond our jurisdiction but the Council may if it sees fit reduce the amount to be provided every year in the manner which I have indicated. I could quite easily inform the hon. Member if he so desires—the figures are on record though I have not got them here—what the equated payments for this year's loan would be on the assumption that the loan is to be repaid to the Government of India in a period of 15 years. It is not however a new system. It was definitely called attention to in connexion with the budget of the last year, when we introduced the new system which

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the Government of India had presented. But I may assure the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that we are anxious to have a little more experience of the working of the system, but that the point will be very carefully borne in mind whether a time will come when this new system will impose upon our annual revenues a heavier burden than would have been the case under the old system or heavier than our present resources can stand, and if I see any sign of that I shall undoubtedly bring the matter to the notice of the Legislative Council and take their advice. At present, so far as I am aware, there is no question of our making payments amounting to a sum which it would be unreasonable for us to meet from our annual revenues."

The demand was adopted and the grant made.

The House adjourned at 3-35 p.m. to re-assemble at 11 'clock next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 11 asked by Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th January 1927, page 52 supra.]

Report of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on Legislative Council Question No. 1497 *by Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar regarding the excavation of a channel from the Peria Eri of Eraiyur village, Tiruvannamalai taluk, North Arcot district.*

Clause (*a*) *of the question.*—A petition dated 9th May 1924, asking for a channel to carry the surplus of the Eraiyur tank into Melpunjai tank was received by the Collector who transmitted it to the Executive Engineer, North Arcot division. The Executive Engineer replied to the petitioners on 21st June 1924, that the proposal was not feasible and had been abandoned.

Clause (*b*).—In July 1919 the ryots of Melpunjai village petitioned to the Executive Engineer for permission to excavate the channel for a length of 100 feet to start with. An estimate was then under preparation for the supply channel which had to be taken through a portion of a reserved forest and through a rocky portion. As the permission of the Forest Department was necessary to take the channel through the forest portion, the petition was forwarded to the District Forest Officer with the recommendation that

the ryots be permitted to make an experimental excavation for a length of 100 feet *at their own cost*. This was done presumably with a view to ascertain the rate for excavating the channel. The permission to excavate the channel through the Forest was accorded by the District Forest Officer in August 1919.

Clause (*c*).—After completing the excavation for a length of 100 feet the ryots asked for permission to proceed with further work, but they were informed by the Executive Engineer that they could not be allowed to excavate the channel completely until the estimate for the work had been sanctioned and the alignment of the channel finally decided upon. In spite of this the ryots have, in their enthusiasm not to lose a good rainy season and presumably with the hope of getting back from Government the amount spent by them, excavated the channel to a length of 2,700 feet of their own accord and at their own cost without any reference to the Public Works Department. It does not appear that any action was taken by the Public Works Officers to put a stop to such unauthorized excavation as the proposed scheme was to improve the supply to a minor tank in charge of the Revenue Department and the Public Works Officers had no opportunity to visit the places frequently.

Clause (*d*).—The scheme has been abandoned as a famine relief work.

Appendix II.

[Vide answer to question No. 14 asked by Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th January 1927, page 53 supra.]

Copy of letter from the Collector of North Arcot, D. Dis. 31-26, *dated* 18*th February* 1926.

After the communication to Divisional Officers of B.P. Mis. No. 2518, dated 21st October 1924, which commented adversely on the practice of charging penal assessment for encroachments year after year instead of evicting the encroacher, one of the Divisional Officers suggested that a general exception might be made in the case of brick kilns in tank porambokes. I found that the general practice in the district was to charge penalties sometimes increasing penalties year after year and that as usual there was a great deal of slackness in resorting to eviction. I decided that no general exception should be made and directed the Divisional Officers to take steps to evict after giving the encroachers in long-standing cases some notice to remove their bricks before resorting to confiscation and eviction. The Divisional Officer of Cheyyar proceeded accordingly, and in some cases as the kilns were not removed in the time allowed, they were put up to auction. In most of these cases, the first sales were cancelled on account of illegality of procedure. But I see no reason for a change of policy in respect to these encroachments and the loss and inconvenience to which the owners may have been put is, it seems to me, irrelevant. It is an argument constantly used by Revenue Inspectors and

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others in encroachment cases that "though the encroachment may be objectionable it would be hard to evict the encroacher who has spent labour in raising a crop". But this is not an argument that can be admitted for allowing an individual to trespass upon public property. I think that it is a mistake to allow any sort of private right in tank porambokes to grow up. Tank porambokes are required as tanks when there is water and as grazing grounds when there is not. These are the proper communal uses of them and I think that any other use of them by individuals should be allowed (as, e.g., for melon cultivation) only in exceptional cases and under special permission. I understand that in Wandiwash taluk a great many trees were blown down in the cyclone of 1916 and that it was at this time that trespass upon tank beds for burning bricks became common. It is time this was checked.

APPENDIX III.

[Vide item V ' Communications to the Council ' at page 59 supra.]

G.O. No. 1618 W., dated 29th October 1926.

Under section 72-D (2) (*b*) of the Government of India Act, His Excellency the Governor authorizes an expenditure of Rs. 20,000 under the head "41. *a.* Civil Works—Transferred—Original Works—Buildings—(*f*) General Administration" during the current year, on the acquisition of the house and compound known as Goodacres' bungalow at Calicut for the official residence of the Additional District Magistrate, Malabar.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide item V ' Communications to the Council ' at page 59 supra.]

G.O. No. 1622, Development, dated 13th November 1926.

READ—the following papers :—

I

Letter from Sir T. VIJAYARAGHAVA ACHARYA, K.B.E., Director of Industries, to the Secretary to Government, Development Department, dated Madras, the 26th May 1926, No. 83-E/26.

I have the honour to forward herewith the balance sheet of the Government Industrial Institute, Madura, for the half-year ending the 30th September 1925 received from Messrs. Fraser & Ross, Madras, from which it will be observed that the workshop earned a net profit of Rs. 78–8–0 during the period. My remarks on the balance sheet will be forwarded separately.

ENCLOSURE

Letter from Messrs. FRASER & ROSS, Madras, dated the 20th May 1926.

We have the honour to enclose herewith balance sheet of the Government Industrial Institute, Madura, as at 30th September 1925 together with profit and loss account for the half-year ending the same date, receipt of which please acknowledge.

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Institute.—Rupees 5,025–9–3 was the cost of upkeep of the Institute for the half-year and the same has been recovered from Government through the personal ledger account of the workshop except Rs. 1,254–13–3, the expenditure for September, which is shown as an outstanding asset.

We have charged depreciation on furniture and rolling-stock at $7\frac{1}{2}$ and $20\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum. The depreciation on rolling-stock Rs. 496 has been debited to the Institute account, while half the depreciation on furniture has been charged to the workshop. The depreciation of Rs. 618–4–0 applicable to the Institute has been adjusted in the Government Capital account of the Institute.

Tuition fees.—Rupees 517 being fees collected from the students has been taken to the profit and loss account and shown as a deduction from the total cost of running the Institute. The fees were deposited in the treasury for credit of Government.

Workshop—Work in progress, Finished stock, Raw materials and tools.—The book balances have been accepted. These accounts will be carefully scrutinized when the annual balance sheet to 31st March 1926 is prepared.

Audit fee.—We have charged Rs. 250 for audit fee for half-year. There does not appear to be any need to make an adjustment for Rs. 36 being the excess of expenditure under this head over the amount reserved in the previous year's accounts. The workshop was brought under chapter II of the Account Code only from 1st April 1925 and such adjustments will only be necessary in the future.

We regret the delay caused in the submission of the accounts for the half-year.

We are not reporting to Government separately on the above accounts.

Sub-Enclosures

GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE, MADURA.

(1)

Balance Sheet as at 30th September 1925.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

	Workshop. RS. A. P.	Institute. RS. A. P.	Total. RS. A. P.
Capital—			
Government of Madras—			
As per Schedule I ..	3,43,076 4 6	1,86,376 12 5	5,29,453 0 11
Reserve— (RS. A. P.)			
For audit fee .. 250 0 0			
For contribution for leave and pension .. 2,005 4 0			
	2,255 4 0	....	2,255 4 0
Sundry creditors	94 4 6	....	94 4 6
Deposits from pupils ..	....	2,583 0 0	2,583 0 0
Profit and loss account—			
Profit for half-year ..	78 8 0	....	78 8 0

PROPERTY AND ASSETS.

	Workshop. RS. A. P.	Institute. RS. A. P.	Total. RS. A. P.
Fixed capital expenditure—			
Land as per last Balance sheet.	18,325 0 0	32,057 11 11	50,382 11 11
Buildings as per last Balance sheet.	1,50,896 8 11	1,39,284 5 3	2,90,180 14 2
Plant and machinery as per Schedule II.	80,883 9 2	5,425 8 6	86,309 1 8
Furniture as per Schedule II.	3,143 3 2	3,138 3 1	6,281 6 3
	2,53,248 5 3	1,79,905 12 9	4,33,154 2 0
Loose tools	10,160 11 1	....	10,160 11 1
Tools in use	2,530 7 0	....	2,530 7 0
Rolling-stock as per Schedule II.	393 1 0	4,071 4 6	4,464 5 6
Library	....	1,722 4 0	1,722 4 0
Medical stores and appliances.	....	677 7 2	677 7 2
Stock—			
Raw materials	25,690 6 8		
Finished goods	6,547 8 7	....	44,022 12 11
Work in progress ..	11,784 13 8		
Book debts	7,326 2 10	....	7,326 2 10
Deposits in treasury on account of pupils as per contra.	....	2,583 0 0	2,583 0 0

Balance Sheet as at 30th September 1925—cont.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES—*cont.*

	Workshop.	Institute.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
	3,45,504 5 0	1,88,959 12 5	5,34,464 1 5

PROPERTY AND ASSETS—*cont.*

		Workshop.	Institute.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Advances—				
To Apprentices ..	203 0 11			
To Institute	1,254 13 3			
		1,457 14 2	....	1,457 14 2
Cash and other balances—				
Cash		563 14 4		
Personal Ledger No. 1 account.		3,965 13 4	....	26,322 6 9
Personal Ledger No. 2 account.		21,792 11 1		
Service stamps.. ..		42 8 0	....	42 8 0
		3,45,504 5 0	1,88,959 12 5	5,34,464 1 5

Examined and found correct.

MADRAS,
20th May 1926.

FRASER & ROSS, Chartered Accountants,
Commercial Accountants and Auditors to the Government of Madras.

(2)

Profit and Loss Account for the half-year ending 30th September 1925.

	Workshop. RS. A. P.	Institute. RS. A. P.	Total. RS. A. P.
To Opening stock—			
Work in progress ..	5,208 12 0		
Manufactured stock ..	5,829 12 2		
	11,038 8 2	..	11,038 8 2
,, Raw materials issued on jobs.	8,679 6 6	..	8,679 6 6
,, Wages—			
Skilled labour	4,979 6 4	..	4,979 6 4
Apprentice labour ..	4,253 11 10	..	4,253 11 10
,, Establishment—			
Staff	6,986 8 8	3,303 10 4	10,290 3 0
Menials	240 4 10	92 8 0	332 12 10
,, Travelling expenses ..	..	120 13 0	120 13 0
,, Miscellaneous expenses ..	32 4 1	19 0 8	51 4 9
,, Postage and telegrams ..	48 2 4	24 1 2	72 3 6
,, Repairs to—			
Buildings	7 6 3	8 11 5	16 1 8
Plant and machinery ..	156 11 1	..	156 11 1
Furniture	39 15 6	12 6 0	52 5 6
Rolling-stock	384 9 7	10 14 7	395 8 2
,, Shop expenses—			
Carpentry section	398 5 7	..	398 5 7
Fitters section	191 13 5	..	191 13 5
Smithy section	276 2 8	..	276 2 8
Foundry section	331 10 11	..	331 10 11
Motor shop .. .	199 11 8	701 9 11	901 5 7
Power and machine shop.	1,366 11 4	..	1,366 11 4
Manual training	88 7 11	22 6 11	110 14 10
,, Water-supply	692 1 9	205 5 8	897 7 5
,, General service	965 12 5	504 1 7	1,469 14 0
,, Reserve for audit fee ..	250 0 0	..	250 0 0
,, Leave and pension allowances.	2,005 4 0	..	2,005 4 0
,, Depreciation on—			
Plant and machinery ..	1,748 15 0	..	1,748 15 0
Rolling-stock	..	496 0 0	496 0 0
Furniture	122 4 0	122 4 0	244 8 0
,, Profit for half-year ..	78 8 0	..	78 8 0
	45,562 11 10	5,643 13 3	51,206 9 1

	RS. A. P.	Workshop. RS. A. P.	Institute. RS. A. P.	Total. RS. A. P.
By Sales		12,463 4 5	..	12,463 4 5
,, Work done for workshop ..		6,656 2 8	..	6,656 2 8
,, Closing stock—				
Work in progress ..		11,784 13 8	..	11,784 13 8
Finished stock		6,547 8 7	..	6,547 8 7
,, Subsidy		8,000 0 0	..	8,000 0 0
,, Tuition fees		..	517 0 0	517 0 0
,, Miscellaneous receipts ..		110 14 6	..	110 14 6
,, Expenditure on Institute recovered from the Accountant-General and credited to the Personal Ledger account of the workshop.	5,025 9 3			
Depreciation adjusted to Capital account.	618 4 0			
	5,643 13 3			
Less Tuition fees paid into treasury.	517 0 0			
		..	5,126 13 3	5,126 13 3
		45,562 11 10	5,643 3 3	51,206 9 1

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(3)

Schedule 1.

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Government Capital account—						
Workshop—						
Balance as per last Balance sheet ..	..			3,13,772	8	8
Add Furniture not brought to stock ..	5	0	0			
Stamps of the Institute transferred to Workshop account	38	3	10			
				43	3	10
				3,13,815	12	6
Less Refund of permanent advance ..	600	0	0			
Expenditure on Institute lorry debited to Institute capital	139	8	0			
				739	8	0
				3,13,076	4	6
Add Working capital	..			30,000	0	0
				3,43,076	4	6
Institute—						
Balance as per last Balance sheet ..	..			1,86,893	12	3
Add Expenditure on Oakland lorry ..	..			139	8	0
				1,87,033	4	3
Less Value of stamps transferred to workshop	38	3	10			
Less Depreciation on rolling-stock and furniture	618	4	0			
				656	7	10
				1,86,376	12	5

(4)

Schedule II.

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Plant and machinery—									
As per last Balance sheet				93,329	3	11			
Depreciation as per last Balance sheet	5,271	3	3						
For half-year	1,748	15	0						
				7,020	2	3			
							86,309	1	8

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Schedule II—cont.

		RS. A. P.	RS A. P.
Furniture—			
Balance as per last Balance sheet	..	6,520 14 3	
Add Mirror re-brought into stock	..	6 0 0	
		6,526 14 3	
Less Recovery of a lock ..	.. ..	1 0 0	
		6,525 14 3	
Depreciation for half-year	.. ..	244 8 0	
			6,281 6 3
Rolling-stock—			
As per last Balance sheet..	.. ..	4,820 13 6	
Add charges on Oakland car	.. ..	139 8 0	
		4,960 5 6	
Depreciation for half-year	.. ..	496 0 0	
			4,464 5 0

II

Letter from L. B. GREEN, Esq., M.B.E., Director of Industries (in charge), to the Secretary to Government, Development Department (through the Accountant-General), dated Madras, the 3rd August 1926, No. 83-E/26.

In continuation of my letter No. 83-E/26, dated the 26th May 1926, I have the honour to state that certain minor discrepancies in the figures under 'Works in progress' and 'Closing stock' were pointed out to the auditors with a request that the balance sheet and profit and loss account be revised. In reply, they have pointed out that the account, as at 30th September 1925, is an interim one and state that they do not consider it necessary to revise the balance sheet or the profit and loss account as the final accounts for the year ending 31st March 1926 will show a true profit of the working of the year. I accordingly propose to reserve my remarks till the final accounts for the year ending 31st March 1926 are submitted.

III

Endorsement of the Accountant-General, Madras, dated 11*th October* 1926, *No. H.A. Comml.* 13–297.

Forwarded.

2. The audit fee for the half-year ending 30th September 1925 including travelling allowance and out-of-pocket expenses of the auditors is Rs. 324–8–0 as against a sum of Rs. 250 reserved for and

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the commercial auditors have been advised to adjust the difference of Rs. 74–8–0 in the accounts of the subsequent half-year. This amount together with the contribution for leave and pension, viz., Rs. 2,005–4–0 (total Rs. 2,329–12–0), has been adjusted in the books of this office for September 1926 to the debit of the personal ledger account by credit to "XXV. Industries—Recoveries on account of Indirect Charges—Madura Technical Institute."

3. The auditors have not raised any debit on account of direction charges. The amount fixed in G.O. No. 1124, Development, dated 5th August 1926, may be adopted for 1925–26 also and the debit raised in the accounts of the next half-year.

4. The balance under raw materials at closing date of this account period under report is Rs. 25,690–6–8 against Rs. 29,523–3–2 on 31st March 1925. The value of the raw materials actually used on jobs in the first six months of 1925–26 is Rs. 8,679–6–6. It is thus seen that raw materials to the value of Rs. 4,846–10–0 have been purchased during the half-year. The Director has not furnished any information whether these purchases were only in respect of such materials of which stocks were low and it is not clear if really speedy and effective steps are being taken to dispose of the surplus stock of such of the other materials as are not needed for near use in the workshop, as required in paragraph 4 of G.O. No. 227, Development, dated 16th February 1926.

5. The auditors have not stated why they have charged depreciation on the rolling-stock of the workshop to the Institute account. They may be asked to adjust this and to charge depreciation in the next accounts on such of the buildings or such portion of cost of the buildings as may be roughly taken to represent workshop assets so that the result of the working of the workshop for 1925–26 may be correctly brought out.

R. L. McKernan,
Accountant-General.

To the Secretary to Government, Development Department.

Order—No. 1622, *Development, dated* 13*th November* 1926.

Recorded.

2. *Direction charges.*—The Government consider it sufficient to debit the workshop accounts with a sum of Rs. 200 on account of direction charges.

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3. *Stock.*—The attention of the Director is invited to the remarks of the Accountant-General in paragraph 4 of his endorsement and he is requested to report whether effective steps are being taken to clear off stock.

4. *Depreciation on rolling-stock.*—Messrs. Fraser & Ross are requested to carry out the suggestion of the Accountant-General in paragraph 5 of his endorsement.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Development)

V. PANDRANG ROW,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Industries.
,, the Accountant-General (through the Finance Department).
,, the Auditor-General (with C.L.).
,, the Finance Department.
,, the Secretary, Legislative Council, for placing the Order on the Council Table.
,, Messrs. Fraser & Ross.

APPENDIX V.

[Vide item V 'Communications to the Council' at page 59 supra].

List of posts on Rs. 500 per mensem and above created during the quarter ending September 1926.

A. PERMANENT.

Department and designation of the post (1)	Pay per mensem. (2)	Date of creation. (3)	Remarks. (4)
		Public Health.	
	RS.		
Local Self-Government (P.H.) Department—			
Two professors, Medical College, Vizagapatam.	500—50—900; Special pay Rs. 75.	1st July 1926.	To be assistants to the Professors of Surgery and Medicine in connexion with the opening of the fourth year class.
		Civil Works.	
Public Works and Labour Department—			
Executive Engineer for the Guntur Division, Bezwada Circle.	625—1,375.	22nd July 1926.	Originally sanctioned for one year in April 1926 and subsequently sanctioned by the Secretary of State permanently.

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B. TEMPORARY.

(i) Extensions of previous sanctions.

Department and designation of the post. (1)	Pay per mensem. (2)	Period of tenure (3)	Remarks. (4)
General Administration.			
	RS.		
Law Department—			
Additional Sub-Judge, Madura.	650	For one year from 21st July 1926.	
Civil Works.			
Public Works and Labour Department—			
Executive Engineer, Kattalai scheme works.	625—1,375.	From 1st August 1926 to 11th August 1926.	Originally sanctioned from 14th May 1925 to 31st March 1926 and extended up to 31st July 1926.

(ii) Temporary posts newly created.

Department and designation of the post. (1)	Pay per mensem. (2)	Period of tenure (3)	Remarks. (4)
Forests.			
Development Department—			
Chief Forest Engineer.	2,000	For six months from 14th August 1926.	The contract of Mr. Martin expired on 13th August 1926 and it is proposed to re-engage him only from February 1927. In the interval Mr. Pearce has been appointed to act as Chief Forest Engineer.
Superintendent, Government Cinchona Plantations, Anamalais.	900—50—1,050	For four years from 22nd September 1926.	There was a temporary post on Rs. 600--50--750. As this pay was insufficient to attract and retain a suitable officer, a new temporary post on Rs. 900—50—1,050 has been substituted.
General Administration.			
Local Self-Government Department—			
Under Secretary to Government, Local Self-Government Department.	1,050	From 3rd August 1926 to 11th October 1926.	Appointed in connexion with the amendment of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act.

Department and designation of the post. (1)	Pay per mensem. (2)	Period of tenure. (3)	Remarks. (4)
	B. TEMPORARY—*cont.*		
	(ii) TEMPORARY POSTS NEWLY CREATED—*cont.*		
	General Administration—cont.		
	RS.		
Public Department—			
Editor of the Gazetteers and Curator, Madras Record Office.	If held by an Indian Civil Service Officer, the pay he would draw in the regular line as Collector or District and Sessions Judge.	Two years from 1st July 1926.	Appointed for revision of the statistical 'B' volumes of all District Gazetteers and of the first 'A' volumes for ten districts. The officer is also in charge of the Madras Record Office.
District and Sessions Judge.	1,500	From 22nd July 1926 to 14th August 1926.	Created on account of the deputation of M.R.Ry. K. Sundaram Chettiyar as a Commissioner for the trial of the petition presented by Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar in connexion with the election to the Council of State.
District and Sessions Judge.	2,150	From 9th August 1926 to 5th September 1926.	Created on account of the deputation of M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur C. V. Viswanatha Sastriyar to the Legislative Assembly.
	Administration of Justice.		
Law Department—			
Sub-Judge, Nellore.	650	From 1st August 1926 till the commencement of the Christmas holidays, 1926.	....

Department and designation of the post. (1)	Pay per mensem. (2)	Period of tenure. (3)	Remarks. (4)

B. TEMPORARY—*cont.*

(ii) TEMPORARY POSTS NEWLY CREATED—*cont.*

Administration of Justice—cont.

Department and designation of the post. (1)	Pay per mensem. (2)	Period of tenure. (3)	Remarks. (4)
	RS.		
Law Department—cont.			
Sub-Judge, Cuddalore.	650	For one year from 1st August 1926	....
		Labour Department.	
Public Works and Labour Department—			
Secretary to the Unemployment Committee.	Pay of Deputy Collector in the regular line *plus* Presidency allowance.	For three months from 14th October 1926.	....
		Civil Works.	
Executive Engineer for the Pykara Hydro-Electric Project.	625—1,375 *plus* Rs. 300 compensatory allowance.	Till 31st March 1927.	....
Special Officer for the investigation of the Upper Bhavani Project.	1,600 *plus* special pay Rs. 200.	For three months from 25th September 1926.	....

....

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 25th January 1927.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU Garu) in the chair.

PRESENT:

Ramaswami Ayyar, The hon. Sir C. P.
Marjoribanks, The hon. Mr. N. E.
Usman Sahib Bahadur, The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Moir, The hon. Mr. T. E.
Subbarayan, The hon. Dr. P.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, The hon. Mr. A.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N.
Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur.
Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur.
Abdul Hye Sahib Bahadur, K.
Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur S. K.
Abdul Wahab Sahib Bahadur, Munshi.
Adinarayana Chettiyar, Mr. T.
Anjaneyulu, Mr. P.
Appavu Chettiyar, Mr. C. D.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.
Arpudaswami Udayar, Mr. S.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu, Mr. P.
Bheemayya, Mr. J.
Biswanath Das Mahasayo, Sriman.
Boag, Mr. G. T.
Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar, Mr. T. K.
Congreve, Mr. C. R. T.
Cotterell, Mr. C. B.
Davis, Mr. J. A.
Dorai Raja, Mr. S. N.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Sahib S.
Ethirajulu Nayudu, Diwan Bahadur P. C.
Gangadhara Siva, Mr. M. V.
Gopala Menon, Mr. C.
Govindaraja Mudaliyar, Mr. C. S.
Guruswami, Rao Sahib L. C.
Hall, Mr. J. F.
Hampayya, Rai Sahib M.
Harisarvottama Rao, Mr. G.
John, Mr. V. Ch.
Kaleswara Rao, Mr. A.
Kameswara Rao Nayudu, Mr. V.
Karant, Mr. K. R.
Kenneth Kay, Mr.
Khadir Mohiddin Sahib Bahadur, Muhammad.
Koti Reddi, Mr. K.
Krishnan, Mr. K.
Krishnan Nayar, Diwan Bahadur M.
Krishnaswami Nayakar, Mr. K. V.
Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.
Kuppuswami, Mr. J.
MacDougall, *Kt.*, Sir Alexander.
Madhavan Nayar, Mr. K.
Mallayya, Mr. B. S.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S. Muhammad.
Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, T. M.
Muniswami Nayudu, Rao Bahadur B.
Muniswami Pillai, Mr. V. I.
Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara.
Muttayya Mudaliyar, Mr. S.
Muthulakshmi Ammal, Dr. (Mrs.)
Muthuranga Mudaliyar, Mr. C. N.
Nagan Gowda, Mr. R.
Nanjappa Bahadur, M.V.O., Subadar-Major S. A.
Narayana Raju, Mr. D.
Narayana Rao, Mr. Mothay.
Narayanan Chettiyar, Mr. Al. Ar.
Narayanan Nambudrippad, Rao Bahadur O. M.
Narayanaswami Pillai, Mr. T. M.
Obi Reddi, Mr. C.
Pandrang Row, Mr. V.
Parasurama Rao Pantulu, Mr. A.
Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Patro, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Premayya, Mr. G.
Raja of Jeypore.
Raja of Panagal (Sir P. Ramarayaningar).
Raja of Ramnad.
Rajan, Mr. P. T.
Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. K.
Ramachandra Reddi, Mr. B.
Ramanath Goenka, Mr.
Ramasomayajulu, Mr. C.
Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. U.
Ratnasabapathi Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C. S.
Sahajanandam Swami, Mr. A. S.
Saldanha, Mr. J. A.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Sarabha Reddi, Mr. K.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Mahmud.
Seturatnam Ayyar, Mr. M. R.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Sitarama Reddi, Rao Bahadur K.
Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Siva Rao, Mr. P.
Slater, Mr. S. H.
Smith, Mr. J. Mackenzie.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. R.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Srinivasan, Rao Sahib R.
Subrahmanya Moopanar, Mr. S.

PRESENT—*cont.*

Subrahmanya Pillai, Mr. Chavadi K.
Sundaramurti Pillai, Rao Sahib P. V. S.
Swami, Mr. K. V. R.
Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur, Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib
Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Syed.
Thomas, Mr. D.
Tireman, Mr. H.
Tulasiram, Mr. L. K.
Tyler, Mr. H. H. F. M.
Uppi Sahib Bahadur, K.
Vanavudaiya Goundar, Mr. S. V.
Venkatapati Raju, Mr. P. C.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
Venkatarama Sastriyar, Mr. T. R.
Venkataramana Ayyangar, Mr. C. V.
Venkatarangam Nayudu, Mr. C.
Venkataratnam, Mr. B.
Venkiah, Mr. S.
Wood, Mr. C. E.
Zamindar of Gollapalli.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram.
Zamindar of Seithur.

I

NEW MEMBER.

The following new Member was sworn in:—

RAJA OF JEYPORE (Maharaja Sri RAMACHANDRA DEO).

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15 *on the* 4*th December* 1924.

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Education.

Amendment of the Madras University Act.

*27 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government have under consideration:

(1) any proposals for amendment of the Madras University Act especially with a view to (i) the reduction of the number of bodies or councils, (ii) raising the standard of the qualifications of the members of the Senate representing the bodies entitled to elect them, (iii) increasing the residential character of students, (iv) inter-collegiate system of lectures, and (v) post-graduate courses for research work;

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(2) any application for grant of money for the last three purposes; and

(b) if so, what are the decisions Government have arrived at on these points?

A.—The question of amending the Madras University Act, 1923, is under consideration. A reference has been made on the subject to the Syndicate of the Madras University and its recommendations are awaited. The University has submitted applications for grants towards the establishment of a department for the advanced study of Indian Philosophy and of a department for Mathematical research. The applications are under consideration.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"With reference to clause (a), may I know on what lines a reference has been made to the Syndicate?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The reference is a general one. We are waiting for the report of the Syndicate."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Has not Government received any proposals from the Syndicate?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"We have received no proposals."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"What is the attitude of Government as to the application for the grant of money for the purposes mentioned here and what will be the probable amount of grant?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"That is being considered by the Finance Committee."

Grants-in-aid to private schools.

*28 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to the answer given to my question No. 2227, dated 16th July 1926, and to state—

(a) whether Government have received the proposals of the Secondary Education Reorganization Committee; and

(b) if so, what their proposals are as to the aid to be given to private schools as distinguished from that given to local boards and municipal schools?

A.—(a) & (b) The report of the Committee has not yet been received.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I enquire why the Committee is delaying its report so long?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I am not responsible for it."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"The Committee was appointed by Government and the Government should see that the report is expedited when it is long delayed."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I shall see that the report is expedited."

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Local Boards.

Alleged hardships entailed from the profession tax under the Local Boards Act.

*29 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have received representations from private individuals, officials of local boards or public bodies or firms as to the hardships entailed from the profession tax under the Local Boards Act, the basis on which it is levied, the method by which it is enforced, the procedure as to appeals, etc.;

(b) whether Government have received a representation from certain villagers of Neermarga, Bondanthilla and Mermajal, Mangalore taluk, South Kanara, on the subject; and

(c) what action has been taken on these representations?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have received representations from the villages mentioned and from certain firms. No officer of a local board has sent any representation to Government on the points referred to.

(c) Provided that the boards concerned can balance their budgets without levying the tax and the District Board approves of the abolition of the tax, no objection is raised by Government to its abolition. The Government are not convinced that other action of a general nature is required.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I am puzzled by the answer to clause (c). There are so many negatives in it and I do not know what it means. I want to know whether Government would waive the objection to the abolition of the tax. I want an affirmative answer."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire whether in the representation which has already been received, the specific point has not been raised, viz., the villagers situated as they are far away from headquarters have to go long distances, that so much of their time and money is wasted which they cannot afford and practically they are without any relief?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Hon. Members cannot introduce any argumentative explanation in their supplementary questions."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I ask whether such a representation has been made."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" There is no such representation from the local body concerned."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I want to know whether the villagers have not made representation to Government that situated as their villages are at long distances from headquarters of the taluk they are almost precluded from getting relief being unable to go long distances and it is very difficult for them to make appeals, etc."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice of the question so that I may have it enquired into."

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Vacancy in the Tanjore District Board.

29-A Q.—Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that a vacancy has occurred on or about the 8th of January in the Tanjore District Board by the expiry of the period of a nominated member ;

(*b*) whether any nomination has been made to it ; and

(*c*) if not, why there has been delay in filling up the vacancy ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The President, District Board, submitted a nomination on 7th January 1927, which was not accepted by the Government. He submitted another nomination on 21st instant. This is now under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, with reference to the answer to clauses (*b*) and (*c*), under section 17 of the Local Boards Act, it is the duty of the Government to nominate if there is a vacancy, and if, for purposes of convenience Government hit upon the method of calling for nomination from the President of District Board, that ought not to stand in the way of nomination by Government. May I ask the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government that in this case as there is a nomination which has been rejected, he should nominate directly without awaiting further recommendation of the District Board President."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" It is a suggestion for action and not giving information."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" As a point of order, I rise to say when a question is put to the House it is suggested that the Member putting the question must vouch for the information he gives, and again when a Member asks . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is not the point now."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" The Chief Minister raised the question that it was a suggestion for action. I submit to you for a ruling whether the purpose of a question is not really though indirectly to suggest action, and to influence Government to take action. I am only asking whether the Government will or will not do in any way. If the object is to elicit information from Government, the right of questioning is an empty formality for we are asked to vouch for the information we give. I have the information, and I ask the question, and the purpose of our question is to make Government move in a certain matter. In view of the provisions of the Act, I am putting to the Chief Minister whether he will proceed in a particular direction."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As the answer implies, the Government are having the matter under consideration."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Regarding the point of order raised whether a question suggesting action on the part of the Government is admissible or not, a plain brief question suggesting action of a simple definite kind is admissible ; but if a question suggests action of a very complicated kind it is not admissible. But in this case, as it is a simple question, the hon. Minister may answer if he so chooses."

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The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—"May I submit to you that it is for the Chair to decide whether a question is in order, or not, or whether a question suggests action or not. It is not for the Members of the Government to arrogate to themselves the functions of the Chair."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Minister raised the question as a point of order."

Village Panchayats.

Refund of illegal taxes collected by the president of the Therkupatti village panchayat.

* 30 Q.— Mr. Chavadi K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI : With reference to the answer to clauses (a) to (d) of question No. 2394, dated 28th August 1926, regarding the refund of illegal taxes collected by the president of the village panchayat at Therkupatti, will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether any steps were taken by the Registrar-General of Panchayats to refund the illegal taxes collected by the president of the village panchayat at Therkupatti and if so, with what result; and

(b) if any report has been received from him on the subject, whether it will be placed on the Council table at its next meeting to be held on the 24th January 1927?

A.—Information has been called for.

Agriculture.

Agricultural schools in this Presidency.

* 31 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of agricultural schools with any experimental farms attached to them in the Presidency;

(b) the number of pupils trained in each during 1926–27; and

(c) the number proposed to be trained in 1927–28?

A.—(a) Two.

(b) Ten students passed out of Anakapalle and 18 out of Taliparamba in April 1926. The number of students admitted to Anakapalle in 1926–27 was 4 and to Taliparamba 19.

(c) It is too soon to say.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, it takes one's breath away to see that there are only 28 pupils in these two schools. May I ask whether Government have made any enquiries as to why there is such a paucity of pupils and why these schools are unpopular?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"These schools are started for experimental purposes and we are watching the results, and the question of further schools will afterwards be considered."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—"Is it not a fact that though there are many applications they are restricted and all are not admitted?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I do not see there has been any restriction."

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Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" In what places are new schools proposed to be started ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I am in correspondence with regard to that matter."

The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI :—" Sir, are there any proposals to open more schools in Andhra districts ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" The whole matter of additional schools is under consideration."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" What I want to know is this, whether Government are enquiring why these schools are not popular and how they can be made popular, such as by providing board houses, museums, etc., so that they may attract the attention of the villagers who might find them useful in various directions ?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I think the hon. Member has succeeded in his attempt : he has drawn the attention of the Government to the paucity of pupils and the matter is not likely to stop at that ; there will be further enquiries made."

Public Health.

Gudur water-supply scheme.

* 32 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state at what stage the Gudur water-supply scheme is ?

A.—The Sanitary Engineer has submitted rough estimates for the Gudur water-supply scheme. The capital cost of the scheme including centage charges amounts to about Rs. 1,57,500. The Government have promised a half grant towards the capital cost of the scheme but they have informed the Nellore District Board that they cannot provide funds for the purpose until their prior commitments in respect of water-supply and drainage schemes have been discharged (i.e., for the next three or four years) and that if the District Board wishes to undertake the work at once, the entire expenditure will have to be met in the first instance by the local boards concerned from their own funds. The President, District Board, has asked the Government whether the District Board may be permitted to raise a loan in the open market. He has been requested to report whether the District Board is willing to raise a debenture loan and whether there is any prospect of such a loan being raised. He has also been requested to report whether he has applied for the loan of the amount required from any district board having railway-cess accumulations. His reply is awaited.

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" May I know whether the District Board President, Nellore, is allowed to take a loan from the railway-cess accumulation of the Nellore District Board itself ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Yes. 11-15 a.m.
Sir. He has been asked to find out if he can get a loan of the required amount from any District Board having railway-cess accumulations."

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Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" May I know whether any reply has been received from the District Board President, Nellore ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" A reply has since been received from the District Board President in which he asks for some assurance as to when Government will provide a share of the cost. The matter is receiving consideration."

Free distribution of quinine in malarial areas.

* 33 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what orders have been passed on my proposal for free distribution of quinine in malarial areas ; and

(b) if no orders have been passed, why they are delayed and when they may be expected ?

A.—(a) No orders have yet been passed.

(b) The matter is under correspondence with the Director of Public Health. Orders will be issued as early as practicable.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" This is perhaps the sixth time that an answer like the one given in clause (b) is given. This is a matter which has been under consideration at least for the last one year and meanwhile thousands of people in forest areas are suffering from malaria. If the Government have any sympathy for the afflicted people in the forest areas, they should take steps to expedite this reply from the Director of Public Health."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" I may inform the hon. Member that the Government have full sympathy with the cause of the people suffering from malaria. The matter is a very difficult one and it has necessitated exhaustive enquiries from all areas considered malarial and the Director of Public Health has sent a report on the matter. But his report is not considered to be satisfactory. Apparently he has not understood the meaning of the enquiry asked to be made. Therefore we are going to make a further enquiry in order to decide the course of action to be taken for the free distribution of quinine."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I enquire how the Director of Public Health failed to understand the intention of the Government ? Is it want of sympathy on the part of the Director of Public Health that is causing difficulty ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Not at all. The Director of Public Health is in full sympathy with the object of the hon. Member."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I know what the difficulties are which have arisen in finding a solution for this matter ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" The matter is very difficult of solution. First we have to make enquiries and then we have to see whether the quinine factory is in a position to meet the demand."

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Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"Is it not a fact that people do not eat quinine unless they are compelled to do so and therefore it can be freely supplied?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I do not know, Sir."

Mr. C. OBI REDDI :—"May I request the hon. the Minister to include Bellary and Cuddapah in malarial area?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I believe they have been already included."

Budget.

Explanation on doubtful points in budget estimates.

*34 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to refer to the objection raised to finding explanation on doubtful points in budget estimates by approaching privately the hon. Member for Finance or the Finance Department on 18th March 1926 (XXIX-201) and to state whether Government have decided on any change in the present procedure so as to throw the burden on the several hon. Members of the Executive Council and the hon. Ministers of enlightening the House on the principles and policy underlying various important items in the budget estimates before the private Members are called on to offer their criticisms and suggestions in the general discussion of the budget estimates, and if so, what the changes are?

A.—The offer by the Finance Member to which the hon. Member refers was in his personal capacity and referred to such assistance as he might be able to give to individual Members of the Council who desired enlightenment as to the exact bearing of certain figures or explanations in connexion with the budget estimates, and had no connexion with the procedure under which the budget estimates are presented and discussed in which the Government do not propose to make any change.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"It is stated that the hon. the Finance Member offered his services in his personal capacity. I am not sure of the meaning of it. Various offers have been made by the Finance Member very kindly, publicly, and they are a sort of public offers. I wish to know whether such a proceeding is not objectionable when the House is reminded that Government should introduce the practice obtaining in the House of Commons of elucidating the budget provisions by clear explanations of policy and the principles underlying the various items therein."

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"I do not know if this is a supplementary question, Sir."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, I want to know whether the Government are willing to introduce the practice obtaining in the House of Commons of elucidating the budget, not as the Accountant-General would do, but explaining the inter-relation of the figures and the policy underlying them. As it is, the Members are left to beat about the bush for some time and then, in the

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end of the debate, the Government explain the policy. I think the Government should explain their policy in the first instance and not after we talk for about three days. The Government are now explaining their policy after finding fault with us saying that we are ignorant and all that."

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" I think, Sir, the information for which the hon. Member asks is contained in the answer to the question. But if the hon. Member still thinks otherwise or is under a misapprehension as to the facts on which he based his question, perhaps I may say that I offered to elucidate the figures in my personal capacity. The budget estimates are a presentation of facts in the shape of figures and, unless they have experience in dealing with budgets, I do not assume that all Members, especially new Members can at once understand the figures which are expressed in the budgetary forms. At the time of the last budget discussion I did make a personal offer that if any Member did not understand exactly what particular figures stood for and came to me or the Secretary, we would certainly do our best to explain the facts which are behind the figures. That was not an offer on my part to explain the policy of the Government but only an offer to enable Members to understand exactly what the figures represented.

" In regard to the other question whether we propose to change the procedure as to the presentation and discussion of the budget which is at present in force, the answer has been given. We have in the first place three days' general discussion at which it is open to any hon. Member to question any Member of the Government as to his policy in regard to any subject and, at the close of the general discussion, every Member of the Government in turn gets up and explains all points in connection with the budget which have been raised in the debate. Then we have of course the detailed voting of the grants when further discussion can be raised on any points on which hon. Members are not satisfied as a result of the general discussion. I think the House will agree with me that that discussion takes place in order that individual Members of the House may question Members of Government on any facts which are presented in the shape of budget figures; and we are not desirous of encroaching further on the time of individual Members of the House by further explanations of our policy either generally or on the part of individual Members of the Government regarding matters in their charge. May I point out. . . ."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" On a point of order, Sir—I was patiently waiting for very many minutes—is it an answer or a speech ?"

The hon. the President :—" The question is a complicated one and the hon. Member for Finance is entitled to make a statement by way of answer."

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" I do not want to say anything further. As the hon. Member did not seem to understand the position I was attempting to explain. I have no desire to say anything further."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I ask the hon. the Finance Member whether his very kind offer made to the hon. Members of the House to take instruction from him or from the Finance Secretary, includes the reports from the Collectors on which the Finance Department relies for the

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preparation of the budget and also the Appropriation Report of the Accountant-General and the Auditor-General. I wish to know whether we shall also be supplied with the final edition of the budget of each year."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—"We are unable to hear anything said from the Opposition or the Treasury Bench." (Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar : Hear, hear.)

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"While on this point, may I know from the hon. the Finance Member whether he is prepared to supply the ordinary Members who are not members of the Finance Committee with the notes that are prepared for the use of the Finance Committee members whenever ordinary Members consider that such notes may be helpful in understanding the budget? Or, will he be prepared to make an arrangement to send such notes along with the budget?"

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—"Mr. President, I may be permitted to answer the queries raised by the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Harisarvottama Rao. My offer was that if any Member was in doubt as to certain figures, we would tell him what they mean.

"Then, as regards the Appropriation Report I think the Leader of the Opposition will remember that they are dealt with by the Public Accounts Committee and that every year the report of the Public Accounts Committee is placed before the House along with the Audit and Appropriation Report. (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : About the 29th of March each year.) It is placed before the House and I do not think there is any delay on the part of the Public Accounts Committee.

"Then as regards the final figures we can, I think, improve the procedure. We shall supply either a complete budget of the estimates or at any rate such supplements as will enable hon. Members to see at once without any difficulty what changes have actually been made in the figures as originally presented to the House as a result of the budget discussion."

"Mr. Harisarvottama Rao asked whether the House might have the papers now placed before the Finance Committee. May I say that these papers are invariably put before the House along with the report of the proceedings of the Finance Committee?"

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"I quite understood and understand the practice of this House. But my question is whether the practice followed in this House is not at variance with that which is followed in the House of Commons?" 11-30 a.m.

The hon. the President :—"That question is calling for an opinion. It is not admissible."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"I am conscious that notes are published in the proceedings, but my point is, so that Members may understand things clearly and have an opportunity of knowing things earlier, whether the hon. the Finance Member is prepared to give us an assurance that we get these things as we ask for them. That was my question. Very often the proceedings of the Finance Committee are given to us very late so that possibly we could do nothing."

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The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—"I think I can say with some assurance that the proceedings of the Finance Committee are in possession of the Members of this House at the latest in two or three days after the discussion in the Finance Committee."

The hon. the President :—"The hon. Member's question is whether the hon. the Finance Member is prepared to send copies of the notes furnished to the Finance Committee to the Members of this House."

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—"They are always sent as soon as the Finance Committee have concluded their proceedings."

The hon. the President :—"The hon. Member wants to know whether the Finance Department is prepared to supply other hon. Members with the notes prepared for the Finance Committee."

The hon. Mr. T E. Moir :—"I am not quite sure if I understand the point to be whether the notes placed before the Finance Committee will be furnished to the Members before the Finance Committee has dealt with the notes?"

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"Sometimes, they are asked for and Members do want them. I would prefer a general circulation because every one of us will have the opportunity of knowing what is happening in the Finance Committee."

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—"That is a point which will have to be considered in consultation with my hon. Colleagues to whose departments the notes belong."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I take it that the hon. the Finance Member will consider that point?"

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—"I said I would."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"Sir, as the whole question relates to the subject of the presentation of the budget, and as the hon the Finance Member himself has admitted that he should consult his hon. Colleagues before he agrees to the changes that we ask for, may I ask why the Government do not accept the suggestion contained in the clause, namely, that each responsible Member of the Government, may be a Minister or an Executive Councillor, should make a statement some time or other in the course of the budget discussion, or before the introduction of the various grants, as to what are the important changes that have been made by the department in particular items which are under his charge, what retrenchments have been effected and what extra money he wants and why he wants? As far as I can recollect, they merely give their replies one after another in reply to our criticisms. When they introduce the budget and move for grants, they do not say a word, and the whole discussion centres on token motions for reduction of particular sums, and the House gets no draft or statement from the Treasury Bench or the hon. the Finance Member or from the Minister or the Executive Councillor under whom the particular department is. May I ask the hon. the Finance Member whether that matter has been considered by the Government, and if so, why they have decided not to follow the practice which will be more conducive and convenient to the whole House?"

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The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" I think the hon. Member is making an assumption when he states that it would be more convenient and conducive to the interests of the whole House. A question of this kind was never raised in the course of the last six years. I think it was raised only very recently by the hon. Member from South Kanara. At any rate while it is a question which is open to discussion and consideration, nothing has been placed before the Finance Department to suggest that such a change would be to the convenience or for the enlightenment of hon. Members of this House."

Labour.

Progress made by the Unemployment Committee.

*35 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state what progress has been made by the Committee appointed to investigate the problem of unemployment and to place before the House a report of its proceedings up to date?

A.—The Committee has finished the examination of witnesses. A report of its enquiry is under preparation.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know why there has been such a delay in submitting the report of the Unemployment Committee? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The report would have been submitted to the Government earlier but for the fact that Sir George Paddison has been away in South Africa. Anyhow it will be hurried up."

Land Revenue.

Legislation regarding revenue settlement.

*36 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state what steps Government are going to take to introduce the required legislation regarding the settlement of land revenue?

A.—In order to elicit the general opinion of the present Legislative Council and of others interested in the subject, a draft Bill will be published with a Statement of Objects and Reasons.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask the hon. the Revenue Member to give us some indication as to what the intentions of the Government are in regard to this important legislation? If I may add a sentence in order to make matters clear and the answer complete, may I ask whether the Government really propose to republish the same Bill framed by Sir Arthur Knapp which was thrown out by this House, or whether they are going to introduce any changes in this Bill at all and if so, of the nature of such changes? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" This will not be the same as the old Bill. But what it will be will be known in a very short time when it is published."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" May I know whether it is a fact that Government appointed a committee to consider the lines on which this legislation should be proceeded with? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I am not aware of any such committee."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"May I know whether a committee was not appointed and it sat for a considerable time at Ootacamund and drafted a Bill and whether that committee was not presided over by Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I am not aware of any such committee."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether the committee appointed by this Government and presided over by Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur did make the proposal that this Council should be given the power of fixing the rates at the time of settlement?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I must ask for notice."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"May I know whether the Bill that is promised and which will be published with the Statement of Objects and Reasons will contain a clause that hereafter all the settlement proposals should be made subject to the positive approval of the Legislative Council."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"The hon. Member will be able to satisfy himself as soon as the Bill is published."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I know approximately as to when this Bill is likely to be published?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I hope almost immediately."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"If it is ready for immediate publication, how is it that the hon. the Revenue Member is not able to tell us whether there is a clause in it which my hon. Colleague from Bellary enquired of? He asked whether there was a particular clause in it. If the hon. the Revenue Member says that the Bill will almost immediately be published, it will not be outside his knowledge to tell us whether that Bill contains such a clause or not."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"It may not be outside my knowledge, but I do not propose to disclose it."

Mr. C. B. NARAYANA REDDI:—"May I know whether the Bill will be published in time and an opportunity will be given to this House to discuss the matter in time and control the resettlement operations that are now going on in West Godavari and Kistna districts?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I have already said that the Bill will be almost immediately published."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Will they suspend the operations of resettlement proposals till this Bill becomes law?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"The resettlement operations that are conducted at present consist only in the registration of lands and there is no reason why we should suspend such operations."

ERRATUM.

Volume XXXIII, No. 3, *dated* 25*th January* 1927.

Page 110, line 33.

For 'Mr. C. B. Narayana Reddi', *read* 'Mr. D. Narayana Raju'.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Council.

7*th March* 1927.

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Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Will the Government be pleased to suspend the final order to be passed with reference to the Wynaad settlement in the Malabar district till the Bill becomes law ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Orders have already been passed."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to lay all the papers relating to this order on the table of this House ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not exactly understand what the hon. Member referred to when he said ' all the papers '."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The scheme report of the Settlement Officer, the opinion of the Revenue Board thereon, and the final orders passed by the Government."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" In the ordinary course the reports are published."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I saw a note in the *Hindu* that final orders had been passed by the Government I have been in search of them but I have not been able to find them out."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I will consider that matter."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not know whether my question has been understood. My question is whether my hon. Friend the Revenue Member will be pleased to place it on the table of the House ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" That is the question I am going to look into."

Secretariat.

Distribution of portfolios among Ministers, etc.

* 37 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to place before the House a statement showing the distribution of the portfolios, functions and work among the hon. the Members of the Executive Council and the hon. Ministers and among the several Secretaries ?

A.—Statements showing the distribution of work among hon. Members of Council and Ministers and Secretaries to the Government have been already published and supplied to all Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know why a statement showing the distribution of portfolios to the hon. the Ministers and Executive Councillors has not been placed on the table of this House ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I think it has been."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire whether there is any purpose in sending such a statement to our house addresses ? If it is printed along with the proceedings and placed here in our seats, we might refer to it whenever necessary."

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Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I ask whether this distribution takes place as a matter of mere adjustment among the hon. Ministers and the Executive Councillors, or is it subject to confirmation or alteration or vetoing and, the final decision is made by His Excellency the Governor? May I take it that the answer given means that irrespective of the wishes and convenience of the respective Minister or the Executive Councillor, His Excellency the Governor makes distribution *suo motu* himself ? "

11-45 a.m. Mr. B. S. Mallayya :—" May I know the special qualifications of the hon. Minister for Excise to be in charge of the Medical portfolio also ? He happens to be a retired engineer."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" My question remains unanswered, especially, with regard to the hon. Ministers. May I know, Sir, why the two major portfolios of Education and Local Self-Government which were in the hands of two Ministers for the last six years have now been given to one Minister thus altering the precedent of the last six years ? Had the hon. Ministers any say in the matter ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I cannot answer a question as to the manner in which His Excellency discharges his functions."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" That is why I asked the previous question, whether the Governor makes the distribution of portfolios without any reference to the wishes of the hon. Members on the Treasury Bench. I know that under the Standing Orders I cannot ask for the reasons in a matter left to the discretion of His Excellency. I am asking whether in such a distribution the convenience or the wish of the members on the Treasury Bench was consulted. If so, in the case of the distribution of the portfolios in the Transferred half, did the Treasury Bench as a whole or the Transferred half alone submit any reasons for going back on the precedent of the last six years, and give both the portfolios of Education and Local Self-Government to one hon. Minister ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I cannot answer a question regarding the procedure adopted by His Excellency."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I know, Sir, which hon. Member of the Executive Council is in charge of the Legislative Council Secretariat, and legislation generally. If there is an irregularity in the Legislative Council Secretariat, as for instance the point I have already referred to, who is the member to take charge of it ? The question I once raised was returned to me."

The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member may raise this question after question-time. He may now proceed with the supplementary questions to this question."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" The Muddiman Committee reported that Forests should be a transferred subject. May I know whether this Government recommended to the Government of India that the subject should be so transferred ? "

The hon. the President :—" The question does not arise."

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The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" May I ask, Sir, whether the redistribution of the portfolios took place at the instance of the hon. the Ministers or *suo motu* by His Excellency the Governor himself ? "

Mr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know, Sir, why the third Minister is not in charge of the Public Works portfolio ? He is a man qualified to hold it. Now it is given to the second Minister."

Village Establishments.

Restoration of village officers.

* 38 *Q.*—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Village Officers Restoration Act has been given effect to ;

(*b*) how many village officers have been so far reinstated ; and how many have yet to be reinstated ;

(*c*) whether any savings are likely to be effected during 1926–27 under the head of " Salaries and Allowances to Village Officers ", and if so, how much ; and

(*d*) whether the work of reappointment in the district of Nellore has been completed ?

A.—(*a*) Instructions were finally issued on 30th July 1926 as to the lines on which action should be taken under the Madras Village Officers Restoration Act, 1926.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) of question No. 7. Having regard to the various stages of delay the Act provides for, the Government have not called for any intermediate progress reports.

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" With reference to the answer of clause (*a*), may I know the details of the instructions issued ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" The instructions were published and laid on the table of the House some time ago."

Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI :—" In the Village Officers Restoration Act, it was understood that Government wanted to restore all the village officers whose services were dispensed with. No restrictions were then contemplated either by the Government or by the Council. May I know, under what authority instructions are now issued as to the lines on which action should be taken, thus restricting the scope of the restoration ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" If the hon. Member will be so good as to read the instructions which were issued and placed on the table of the House he will see that they do not contradict the policy which has been described."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know if assistant karnams have been reinstated under the Act ? If so, how many of them have been reinstated and if not, what were the reasons that prevailed with the Government to deny them their offices ? Does the Act also apply to assistant reddis ? There were two classes of assistant officers, reddis and karnams."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" If the hon. Member wants an exact answer I must ask for notice."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I know, Sir, whether some Collectors have reported that in big villages the revenue monigars may be reinstated on account of difficulties in kist collection ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I am not aware of it."

Irrigation.

Repairs to certain channels in the Chatrapur taluk.

* 39 Q.—Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether petitions have been received by the Collector of Ganjam and the Executive Engineer from the ryots of the Ahamakhandy and Chatrapur firkas within the Chatrapur taluk, Ganjam district, to repair certain important breaches of channels in the irrigation work known as Kortali Tampara under the Jayamangala channel;

(b) the action taken on those petitions; and

(c) whether estimates have been prepared and funds sanctioned?

A.—The Government have no information.

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—" Will the Government be pleased to call for the information ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Yes, Sir."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—" May I ask whether the Government are aware of the fact that the breaches referred to in the question were caused in 1923 ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" No, Sir."

Report of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee.

*40 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received the final report of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee;

(b) if so, whether any orders have been passed thereon; and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to place them on the table?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) G.O. No. 1973 I., dated 16th December 1926, passing orders on the report has been placed on the Editors' Table and a copy has been furnished to the hon. Member as a member of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee.

Mr. P. Siva Rao :—" May I know, Sir, when the Committee or the conference referred to in the Government Order is likely to meet ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Before the end of the month, Sir."

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Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" Now that the President of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee is appointed the third Minister, will he be asked to explain his views to the Conference ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The Committee will naturally, if it considers necessary, avail itself of the assistance of my hon. Colleague Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" Will the Conference also invite another prominent member of the Irrigation Committee, the hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, second Minister ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" If the hon. Minister has got any desires in that direction . . . ."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" It is not his desire, Sir, it is the desire of others interested in the matter."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I note that also, Sir."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" If any other member of the Committee has a desire to make representations to the conference, will they be given some opportunity ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The hon. Member may try, Sir."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know whether the Government are still under correspondence with His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad regarding the survey of a suitable site for the construction of a reservoir on the Tungabhadra and the Kistna ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" That door has been temporarily shut, Sir."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" In the interests of irrigation in this Presidency, will the Government presevere in the matter and approach him again ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The answer of His Exalted Highness the Nizam was both emphatic and unequivocal."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" In view of the altered conditions will the Government consider the desirability of opening negotiations again ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am not aware of the altered conditions, Sir."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know if all the recommendations made by the Irrigation Committee have been considered by the Government ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know that the particular recommendation of the Committee that repairs should be undertaken to the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal immediately was considered by the Government ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know what decision was arrived at in that matter ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Action will be taken in the direction of ordinary repairs."

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Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"Will it find a place in the budget of next year ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"May I know if the Government does not propose to continue the investigation of the possibilities of improving the water-supply of some of the tanks in the Ceded Districts ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"They are advised that there is not much utility in these projects."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"Have Government abandoned the investigation of the water-supply to the Ontimetta tank from the Cheyyar ?"

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"Will the Government place on the table of the House the advice received regarding the futility of the improvements to the tanks ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I shall consider the matter, Sir."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"May I know if the Government will insist on the Revenue Board to report on all the points referred to them and then place their report on the table of the House ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Government have requested the Revenue Board to report on the matter. The advisability of placing their report on the table will be considered later"

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"It is stated that the report was remitted to the Revenue Board for advice. Are not the Revenue Board bound to report on all the points referred to them ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"When Government request the Board of Revenue to report on a particular matter, they have to report on it."

Repairs to the Manur channel in Tinnevelly taluk.

* 41 Q.—Mr. Chavadi K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI : With reference to the answer to question No. 2362, dated 27th August 1926, regarding repairs to the Manur channel in Tinnevelly taluk, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any decision has been arrived at as to the power of the Receiver to bind the Uthumalai estate in the matter of payment of contribution for repairs to the Manur channel and if so, whether the opinion of the hon. the Advocate-General has been obtained in the matter ;

(b) whether the Receiver has consented to pay the necessary contribution ;

(c) whether, if any doubts as to the Receiver's capacity to bind the estate remain, the Receiver has moved the District Court for permission to contribute for the abovesaid repairs and thus to settle his capacity to bind the estate by his payments ; and

(d) whether the Collector of the Tinnevelly district has taken any further steps in the matter of repairs to the channel in question ?

A.—(a) to (d) The local officers have not yet submitted a report. The Government have now called for it. The opinion of the Advocate-General on the legal aspects of the question will be obtained, if necessary, in due course.

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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Local Boards.

Meetings of the Polur Taluk Board.

42 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the President of the Polur Taluk Board refused to answer questions put by members and whether members in consequence *walked out* of the meeting;

(b) whether it is a fact that the President convened two meetings subsequently with only a few of his followers and whether he did not give or send notice of the meeting to the other members of the Board;

(c) whether he did so for declaring the other members as absent for three consecutive meetings; and

(d) whether Government will be pleased to state, after a thorough enquiry, the condition in which the affairs of this Taluk Board are at present?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) Representations containing the allegations referred to in clauses (a), (b) and (c) of the question have been received.

(d) The Government will make an enquiry if such a course proves necessary.

Licences for motor buses between Tiruvannamalai and Tirupattur.

43 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no direct railway connexion between Tiruvannamalai and Tirupattur, two important taluk headquarters in North Arcot district;

(b) whether there are any complaints that trade facilities and connexions are rendered very difficult between these two places on account of this;

(c) whether it is a fact that licences for running motor buses on the portion of the road running through the Salem district are being refused by the President, District Board, Salem; and

(d) what action will be taken to remedy difficulties of this kind?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No complaints have been received by the Government.

(c) The Government were so informed by the President on the representation made by the proprietor of a bus service.

(d) The improvement of the road to make it fit for the use of public motor vehicles, or the guarantee of a branch railway line, are matters for the determination of the District Board.

Co-operative Societies

Appointment of Honorary Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies.

44 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that successive sessions of the Provincial Co-operative Conference have passed resolutions recommending the abolition of the posts of Honorary Assistant Registrars;

(b) when these posts will be abolished ; and

(c) whether Government intend to give subsidies to Co-operative Unions instead of appointing Honorary Assistant Registrars ?

A.—(a) The thirteenth and fourteenth Conferences recommended the abolition of Honorary Assistant Registrars.

(b) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

(c) No.

Public Health.

Burial of corpses on the bund of Chettikalam pond.

45 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the burial of corpses on the bund of Chettikalam pond in Vandipalaiyam village within the limits of Arni Union in North Arcot district is prohibited by a resolution of the North Arcot District Board, dated 1st June 1926; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the present President of the Arni Union Board has allowed Mussalman corpses to be buried on the bund in spite of the above resolution of the District Board, even so late as on 1st December 1926 ?

A.—(a) The resolution of the District Board prohibiting burial was passed on 19th April 1926.

(b) The Government have no information.

Forests.

Report from the Chief Conservator of Forests on G.O. No. 652, *dated 2nd May* 1925.

46 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : With reference to the answer to question No. 1844 given on 26th March 1926, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report called for from the Chief Conservator of Forests on G.O. No. 652, dated the 2nd May 1925, has been received ;

(b) what are the Conservator's opinions on the matter and who were consulted in each district ; and

(c) whether Government will be pleased to lay on the table the final orders, if any, that have been passed thereon ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The matter will be considered when final orders are passed.

Grant of manure leaves to ryots in North Arcot district.

47 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state, with reference to the answer to question No. 2308, given on 25th August 1926, regarding grant of manure leaves to ryots in North Arcot district—

(a) whether the report from the Chief Conservator of Forests on the enquiry held by the District Forest Officer, South Vellore, has been received ;

(b) who are the persons that were consulted in the matter ; and

(c) whether Government will be pleased to lay the report on the table of this House with final orders, if any, passed thereon ?

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A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to Legislative Council Question No. 46.

Grazing facilities for the ryots in Tiruppattur taluk.

48 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the ryots of Reddiyur, Mullakombai, Serathur, Nimiyambut villages in Tiruppattur taluk, North Arcot district, were grazing their cattle in Narasingapuram and Elagiri Mangalam reserved forests with permission to pen their cattle in the reserves, until recently;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that there were also unreserved lands of more than 100 acres in extent near Narasingapuram;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that these unreserves were assigned to Adi-Dravidas and a major portion of Narasingapuram was felled under coupe system and closed for grazing; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Elagiri Mangalam reserve is also closed for grazing and whether the ryots have no grazing facilities for their cattle?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) The Government have no information, but have called for it.

Minor Irrigation.

Repair of the Maluvambattu tank in Tiruvannamalai.

49 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the necessary estimates have been prepared to repair the Maluvambattu tank in Tiruvannamalai taluk as promised by the Collector of North Arcot district in answer to question No. 478, given on 28th October 1925; and

(*b*) whether the Government have any objection to permit the repairs to be executed by the ryots themselves, if it will take a long time for the Government to undertake and finish the work?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no further information but have called for a report on both questions.

Public Service.

Committee to enquire into the grievances of non-gazetted officers.

50 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what action, if any, has been taken on the resolution of this Council dated 1st April 1925 urging the appointment of a mixed committee for enquiring into the grievances of the non-gazetted officers of Government;

(*b*) whether anything has since been done by Government to improve the condition of the non-gazetted services; and

(*c*) whether any committee has been appointed to enquire into the matter?

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A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to item (14) in Appendix VI (on page 547) to the Proceedings of the Legislative Council dated 21st August 1925 (Volume XXIV).

(b) The Government do not consider that the rates of pay and conditions of service of non-gazetted officers are inadequate. The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to clause (c) of question No. 1926 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 10th July 1926 and to the orders contained in G.O. No. 805, Public, dated 26th August 1926, which was laid on the table in answer to question No. 2437 at the meeting of 1st September 1926.

(c) No.

III

DISCUSSION *RE* ALLOTMENT OF DAYS FOR NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

[*Note*.—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I should like to make a request in connexion with the non-official business before the House. It is not likely that all the resolutions will be finished before Thursday next when, I understand, this meeting will come to a close. Even this afternoon will have to be devoted to the discussion of the adjournment motion. I wish to know, Sir, whether it is not possible to have a meeting in the middle of February, with the consent of the House. That would enable us to dispose of, if not all, at least many non-official resolutions that are before us."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" His Excellency the Governor has allotted three days during this sitting and another three days during the February and March sittings for non-official business. It is not the intention of His Excellency to allot any more days as at present advised."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Sir, may I join in the request of the hon. Member from Malabar ? If one such meeting is held in February next, say in the second week, it would help a good deal in the disposal of non-official business. The hon. the Law Member has not, I dare say, consulted His Excellency after this request has been made by the House. I am sure he will communicate this request to him before he makes a statement as to whether it is possible to have another meeting in the middle of February for non-official business."

12 noon. * The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I may say, Sir, that what has fallen from the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is perfectly correct. The request which came from the hon. Member from Malabar and the hon. Member from Madras, has not yet been communicated or forwarded to His Excellency the Governor. That will be done and I may say now that six days for non-official business were, after consideration by His Excellency, allotted during the sittings in January and March. I shall, however, communicate to His Excellency the wish expressed by the hon. Member from Malabar and the hon. Member from Madras and shall convey His Excellency's decision on the matter to you, Sir, for communication to the House."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased also to make a recommendation ? "

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* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" That is a matter on which I am afraid I cannot give an answer."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I know whether my hon. Friend, the Law Member, in the name of the House will kindly convey to His Excellency that it is the wish of this Council—the hon. the Leader of the Opposition also supported the wish—to have a sitting about the middle of February. I feel that if my hon. Friend conveys the wish in that form, His Excellency is likely to accede to our request."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I realize what has fallen from my hon. Friend. What has fallen from the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. Member from Malabar will be communicated as in all probability conveying the wishes of the House."

IV

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE TO DISCUSS IRRIGATION FACILITIES UNDER THE METTUR PROJECT.

* Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR: —" Sir, before proceeding to the regular business of the House, under Standing Order 20, I move that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance—

'*to wit, the refusal of the Government to include the Trichinopoly district amongst the districts entitled to receive the benefits of the Mettur Project Scheme.*'

" A similar motion was moved by my hon Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar yesterday and I requested him to include Trichinopoly also along with Coimbatore and Salem. Technically, we should not move two urgent motions on the same day and therefore I move my motion to-day. If it is technically possible to include Trichinopoly also within the scope of the adjournment motion moved yesterday, I need not move the motion. If it is not possible, I beg to move for the adjournment of the House to discuss my motion."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, with reference to what has fallen from the hon. Member Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar, may I first of all say that I think it is pretty clear that there can be no amendment of the kind now sought to be moved to a motion for adjournment? I believe there has been a certain amount of discussion on the matter. But in any case, I submit, Sir, that in the answer which I shall put forward in relation to Coimbatore and Salem districts will be comprised many topics pertaining to the Trichinopoly district also so that my hon. Friend Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar would have not only the advantage and liberty of intervening in the discussion but this aspect of the matter will also be dealt with in the course of my answers."

* Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI :—" Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar is anxious to press the motion for adjournment in case an amendment is not allowed to yesterday's motion. On a point of order, I beg to submit this . . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" There is no point of order."

* Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI :—" I raise the point of order whether an amendment can be moved to a motion for adjournment."

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*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has to wait till the motion is taken up for consideration by the House. The hon. Member cannot anticipate a decision. This is not the right time to raise the point of order whether an amendment can be moved or not."

*Mr. T M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI :—" I wish to point out, Sir, that a point of order may be raised at any time and not only when the motion itself is taken up for consideration. I beg leave to refer to the rule which says that a point of order can be raised at any time. Before we pass on to the next order of business, any hon. Member is entitled to raise any question. I submit that this subject comes after question time and before we pass on to the next order of business. Secondly, I submit that this is not excluded by the rules of the House. There will be an obvious advantage if the hon. the President is pleased to rule that I am entitled to raise the question at this stage and if the point of order is decided now. If you are to decide in favour of the hon. Member Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar, there will be no necessity to have a discussion on the main proposition at all. If an amendment to the adjournment motion is not allowed to be moved, we will have to press the motion. That is why I am anxious to raise the point of order now and not at 2-30 p.m. when the adjournment motion will be taken up. If this point is raised at 2-30 p.m. and if you are pleased to rule that no amendment can be allowed, we will have no remedy. We feel convinced that our case with regard to Trichinopoly district is as good as Coimbatore and Salem. I may be permitted to raise this point at this stage."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Apparently, the hon. Member is referring to rule 15, clause (2) of the Legislative Council Rules, which says that any member may at any time submit a point of order for the decision of the President but in doing so, shall confine himself to stating the point. The hon. Member wants to interpret the words ' at any time ' as meaning at any period during the sitting of the House. My interpretation is that, when a matter is under discussion, any hon. Member of the House is entitled to raise a point of order which is relevant to the discussion. It only means that a point of order need not be raised only at the commencement of the discussion or at the commencement of a speech but at any time before the question is put to the House. Therefore, the hon. Member is not in order in raising the point of order at this stage.

" The motion which the hon. Member Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar has given notice of is in order for the time being. Does any hon. Member object to the motion ? (After a pause.) Since no hon. Member of the House objects, the hon Member has got the leave of the House and the motion will be taken up for consideration by the House to-morrow at 2–30 p.m "

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I make a suggestion, Sir ? As the subject matter of the adjournment motion of which notice was given yesterday by the hon. Member, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, and of the motion of my hon. Friend, Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar, is exactly the same, may I know from the hon. the Law Member whether it is not possible to discuss it this afternoon ? There will be no new points for discussion to-morrow and the rules of the House permit you to fix this afternoon for the discussion of this motion also The hon. the Law Member with the concurrence of the hon. Member Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar can consent with your permission to take up this motion this afternoon. I make this suggestion for the convenience of everybody concerned."

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V

OFFICIAL BUSINESS DURING THE SESSION

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :— " Sir, before you go to the next item of the business, I would request the hon. the Leader of the House, through you, just to give us some idea as to the official work that we have in this session ; because, we were supplied only with the dates of the general discussion on the budget and the dates of the discussion on the voting of grants. I should like to know whether the Government propose to have any other official business, besides these items." 12-15 p.m.

* The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" With your permission, Sir, may I answer what fell from Mr Krishnan Nayar ? "

* The hon. the President :—" Not necessary."

* The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Sir, with regard to what has fallen from the hon. Member for Ganjam, it is not possible at the present moment to say what official business other than the consideration of the budget will be taken up in the March session. However, timely notice will be given to the hon. Members of this House if any proposal for legislation is sufficiently mature to allow of introduction or discussion in the March meeting."

VI

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF INDUSTRIES.

* The hon. the President :— " I have now to announce that the following candidates have been duly nominated for election as representatives of the Council on the Board of Industries :—

1. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
2. Mr. J. A. Saldanha.
3. Mr. L. K. Tulasiram.
4. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.

" As the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of vacancies, viz., two, there will be an election by means of the single transferable vote. Hon. Members may receive from the Secretary to the Council ballot papers containing a list of the nominated candidates between 1-30 p.m and 2-30 p.m. to-day. Hon. Members are at liberty to mark their preferences and deposit the marked ballot papers in a ballot box placed in the Secretary's room, before 2-30 p.m to-day."

VII

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

* The hon. the President :—" I have to inform the House that the following six gentlemen were nominated for election to the House Committee :—

1. Mr. P. T. Rajan.
2. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
3. Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur.
4. Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
5. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
6. Muhammad Schamnad Sahib Bahadur.

" As the number of candidates nominated for election is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, viz., six, I hereby declare the abovementioned

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gentlemen to be duly elected under Regulation II (4) of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote.

" Under Standing Order 80, I have nominated

1. Mr. M. R Seturatnam Ayyar and
2. Mr. A. V Bhanoji Rao

to be Members of the Committee."

VIII

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S ASSENT TO THE ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that the election of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi as Deputy President has received the assent of His Excellency the Governor." (Loud applause.)

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I say one word, Sir, with reference to the election of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi as Deputy President? I wish to convey my hearty congratulations—I am sorry she is not here—and also I believe the congratulations of the whole House to Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi. The Madras Legislative Council has given the lead to the other Legislative Councils in India in the matter of giving privileges to women. It was this Council that first passed a resolution giving the right of franchise to women, and some of the other Councils in India followed the example of this Council. It was again this Council that first passed a resolution enabling women to stand as candidates for election and to be nominated as Members of this Council. I believe this is, so far as I am aware, the first instance in which a woman has been elected to preside over the deliberations of a legislative assembly in the whole world. I know, Sir, that there have been women Governors in some of the States that form the United States of America. We know also that there have been women Members in the Cabinet; for instance, in the last Labour Cabinet in England, there was a woman Minister; but I believe there has been no instance in the world in which a legislative assembly chose a woman as a person to guide its deliberations I believe it is the proud privilege of this House to have bestowed that honour upon a woman. If I may be permitted, Sir, to strike a personal note, I may say that I have had the privilege of moving both those resolutions in this House—the resolution to grant franchise to women, and the resolution to give the right to women to stand as candidates and as nominees to the Legislative Council. With these observations, Sir, I congratulate Dr Muthulakshmi Reddi and, in all humility, this Council also."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I do not think any further reference to the subject is necessary." (Hear, hear.)

IX

Non-official business.

THE MADRAS ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Mr President, Sir, it is a Bill for amending the Madras Elementary Education Act. . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Before the hon. Member proceeds to make a statement, I wish to know if any Member of this House objects to leave

being given to introduce the Bill. (After a pause.) Since there is no objection taken, the hon. Member is requested only to move for leave for the introduction of the Bill. No speech or statement is necessary."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Therefore, I beg to move for leave of the House to introduce this Bill which is for amending the Madras Elementary Education Act of 1920. This Bill was. . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order. I have already stated that no speech or statement would be allowed."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju seconded the motion.

The motion was put to the House and carried.

X

MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

FAMINE-RELIEF WORKS IN NELLORE DISTRICT.

Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI :—"As Mr. Ramachandra Reddi is not here, will you kindly allow me to move this resolution, Sir?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Does the hon. Member propose to move the resolution in the absence of Mr. Ramachandra Reddi?"

Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI :—"Yes, Sir."

* The hon the PRESIDENT :—"Has the hon. Member the leave of the House to move the resolution?"

The House signified its assent.

Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI :—"Sir, I beg to move—

> '*That this Council recommends to the Government that famine-relief works should at once be started by the Government in the non-deltaic tracts of Nellore district*'.

"I do not wish to make a speech on the resolution in the absence of any details, which Mr. Ramachandra Reddi had collected. I simply move the resolution."

Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu seconded the motion.

* Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"With your permission, Mr. President, may I suggest one thing for your kind consideration and that of the House also? There are several other resolutions proposed and seconded similar to the one now in hand, regarding other districts in the Presidency; for instance, in the Ceded districts, for Bellary they have one resolution, No. 39, for Anantapur and Bellary, resolution No. 41, for North Arcot and Chingleput, No. 42, and for the whole Presidency, resolution No. 43. All these resolutions are to come up, each resolution dealing with one or two districts. My humble submission for the kind consideration of this House as well as for your consideration is this: there is a comprehensive amendment, so far as it is possible for me to judge, the amendment which I propose to this very resolution. Sir, with your permission, I shall read it—

> '*In line 2, for the word "works" substitute the words "measures including postponement of collection of land tax, remission of land tax, etc." Add at the end, the words "in the Ongole, Vinukonda, and Palnad taluks in Guntur district and such other parts of the districts in the Presidency in which monsoons have failed".*'

"I beg to submit, Sir, that this is more or less a very comprehensive amendment including all the other districts in the Presidency; and if hon. Members, seeing that they have very little time allowed for non-official business, will consent to accept this amendment and discuss the whole subject of famine in the different parts of the districts of the Presidency and different parts of the same district, I hope we can save much time and arrive at a common conclusion. With this suggestion, for your kind consideration, Mr. President, and for that of the Members of the House, I beg leave to move my amendment."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I consider that the amendment of Mr Harisarvottama Rao is a very comprehensive one to begin with. It refers to two main questions, namely, as to the area requiring relief and also as to the magnitude of the works to be started. Therefore, it will be to the convenience of the House to take up that amendment first, and if other amendments are to be brought in, they may be brought in as amendments to this amendment, in order to make it more comprehensive. If the House wants to accept such amendments, it may do so, and therefore I now call upon Mr. Harisarvottama Rao to move his amendment."

* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"Sir, I move the following amendment to the resolution:—

'*After the words "famine-relief works" insert the words "and other famine-relief measures, including the immediate postponement of collection of revenue for three months in the districts of Nellore, Anantapur, North Arcot, Chingleput, in the taluks of Bellary, Alur, Rayadrug, Adoni and Hospet of the Bellary district, in the taluks of Koilkuntla, Markapur, Pattikonda, Dhone and Cumbum of the Kurnool district and the remission of land revenue for the current fasli in these areas after due investigation"*'.

"Sir, when I gave notice of this amendment, I had in mind the fact that there were a number of resolutions on the subject, and hence I tried to make it as comprehensive as possible.

12-30 p.m. "The only word that I have missed and which I intended to add is Cuddapah. However, as amendments can be moved to this resolution, I am sure, my hon. Friend, Mr. Koti Reddi, will make good the omission I have made. I do not propose to deal with all the districts by myself. I would restrict myself to the Ceded districts in general and more particularly to my own district, Kurnool. I speak on this subject in a spirit of poignant humility and with a sense of painful necessity. The districts of Anantapur, Bellary and Kurnool—I may also add Cuddapah—have been proverbially in the grip of famine. Unlike the other parts of the Presidency, these districts have often suffered from famines extending over years. In the last century there were not less than twenty years of famine for us, four of the famines extending to more than one year. Within the twenty-six years of this century we have experienced seven years of famine, Anantapur having suffered the worst. Except for a short period in 1906, for a stretch of years from 1904 to 1908, there was no day of hope of decent living. 1913–14 gave cause for anxiety. 1920 and 1921 were actual famine years. Except the year 1925, no other year after the year 1921 may be considered a very good year—to use the expression 'very good' even in the sense that a hungry man fasting for forty days looks upon an ounce of orange juice as very good

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food The Deccan districts in the best years lead a hand-to-mouth existence, to use an expression that Mr. Loveday has used in his book on Indian famines. And to quote the same authority, when an alternative to agriculture as a means of subsistence is practically non-existent, it is ridiculous to speak of openings, sufficient to call capital and labour into the industry. In regard to our districts, not only is there no alternative to agriculture as a means of subsistence, but also agriculture is not even a sufficient means of subsistence, threatened as it is almost every year with insufficiency, as well as precarious distribution, of rains. We have very inhospitable soils. Except for large tracts of black-cotton soil, the rest of the soil is admittedly very poor. You have only to open the volumes of the Imperial Indian Gazetteer or the District Gazetteers of Kurnool, Anantapur and Bellary to read of it. I do not propose to trouble the House with detailed descriptions. Cuddapah, I must mention, in parts partakes of the geological conditions of Kurnool and Anantapur and is therefore equally poor in respect of soil. However, what I desire to make special mention of, is this. The black-cotton soil has acquired so great a name that there is a likelihood of the Ceded districts being denied the true and active sympathy which they deserve. This soil is no doubt best when it has the other necessary auxiliaries to produce a crop. But, it is probably the worst when such auxiliaries fail. It is this soil that gave the greatest trouble in times of scanty rainfall. In the dry months this soil exposes yawning fissures and forms such hard block that it almost defies stone. You can possibly run with a car easily over a road spread with irregular pebbles of stone, but if you try the experiment on a road spread with dried balls of black-cotton mud, your car will come to grief. It is on account of this peculiar quality of this soil that when there is not sufficient quantity of rain to soak the soil or to keep it humid, it is the worst enemy of the ryot. When rains fail, many a field of black-cotton soil is found all unsown, or if the ryot is so foolish as to expend money on seed and sow it, he reaps mere dust of the furrow. I may mention village after village that suffered in this manner, but for my present purpose it is unnecessary to do so. The losses that our districts have suffered from cruel seasonal conditions is difficult to estimate. I do not want to detain the House long over our sorry tale. I have, however, to bring to your notice that our industries have all gone, and our spinners, weavers and artisans have disappeared. They are now working as agricultural labourers without sufficient labour to live on for more than a number of months in the best of years. It is our men that now form the labourers in the distant Assam plantations and the humiliating story of their plight is still fresh in our minds. Men have gone from my part of the country in this season to distant corners of Kistna and finding that they cannot get sufficient wages to make a decent living, have returned. Nandyal, which happily is a bright centre of the Kurnool district, has been invaded in this season by such hordes of labourers that while, last year, we were unable to get a coolie for even 8 annas a day, now we are able to command one at 4 annas sending away many for lack of employment. Are we to presume that the authorities concerned will persist in thinking that there is no sufficient hardship till this rate drops to the antediluvian anna and a half which is generally still held as the famine wage? The average rainfall vouchsafed to us is itself marginal. Anantapur has but 21·4, Bellary 23·9, Kurnool 24·4 and Cuddapah 27·0 inches. There is no other district in the Presidency except Coimbatore which has less than

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our best, namely, Cuddapah. The remaining three are unbeaten in the record of scarcity of rainfall, climatically and economically on the margin line. May I not appeal to this House and the Government officials concerned, that we must command their fullest sympathy and support ? Ours is a sad tale, a sorrowful picture. Fancy to yourselves, hon. Colleagues, a half-backed, half-naked, starving man labouring in inhospitable rocky soils, from early morning to dusk, attempting to produce enough to bring a ball of cholam pudding and a condiment of blood-red chillies, not on to a plate or on to a leaf, but on to his native palm and fancy the demon of scarcity throwing its fatal spell on this small fare and turning it into the very driest dust of the beaten path on a summer noon. That is really the plight of more than 95 per cent—shall I say even 97 per cent—of the ryot population of our districts who, by the way, pay taxes but do not possess a vote because they are too poor to pay an assessment of even ten rupees per year.

" Look at the figure of rainfall this year. Cuddapah as a whole can claim but 22·4 inches, 4·5 below the average. Bellary has 18·5 inches, 5·7 below the average ; Anantapur has 19·4, 2·4 inches below average ; Kurnool 17·5 inches, 6·9 below the average. In 1877, the rainfall was 16·00 inches, in 1896 16 58, and in 1905 it was 17·55 inches. These were famine years. The average for the district is not really sufficient to indicate to you our tale of woe. In the Kurnool district itself, there is a spot which receives on an average only 19·84 and is chronically in distress. But what has happened to such spots this year ? *Owk*, whose annual average is 19·84 inches, has this year recorded but 15·48 inches. Dhone whose annual average is 24·28 has had a rainfall of 15·63. Koilkuntla whose annual average is 23·99 has recorded but 15·05 ; Markapur whose average was 24·36 has but 10·95 inches of rain. These are figures culled from the *Fort St. George Gazette.* Hon. Colleagues, I desire you to mark this figure 10·95 inches . ."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has to address the Chair "

* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" These are figures culled from the *Fort St. George Gazette,* but there are villages which are known as typical villages and they have record rainfall. I know at any rate one village which has recorded no more than 8 inches. If we go to every village and find out what has been the rainfall—every village officer is expected to keep an account of it—I am sure the Government will find that there are localities where there has not been rain to the extent of more than 4 inches or even 3. With these figures of rainfall before us and the experience that we have got of the mufassal in every famine, it would, I think, be right of me to demand that the Government do immediately take action and relieve the distress ; but I am afraid the Government will desire a little more information from me in regard to the particular areas. I said that Markapur in my district has produced the least crop. I have to make out a case with regard to the distribution of rain. Markapur is a very poor taluk, about eight-tenths of it being poor red soil and in that taluk the staple produce consists of sajja, ragi and korra. The total area under cultivation in that taluk is 145,920 acres, of which there is but 10,250 acres of wet land under tanks which had for some time insufficient supply—which may by the way mean anything from one day's supply to one month's, with no chance of continuous copiousness for any length of time—and then dried up even according to official reports. An area of 15,919 acres is cultivated under wells. The Markapur tank is a dufassal tank having a supply channel from the Gundlakamma river and its ayacut forms a big enough

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portion of the wet area. Even under this tank the ryots who raised paddy crop could raise only one crop. Ryots who had sown ragi, because for one reason or another they could not get sufficient water, are now looking up to the sky, their crops standing very near withering as there is not a drop of water to supply from the tank. However, to return to sajja, ragi and korra, sajja which takes three to four months to grow, badly failed on account of the gravest scarcity of rain from the 13th of October. Markapur is the only recording centre in the taluk and even according to that record, 0·11 inch is all the rain recorded after the 13th October. The most favoured spot received at best half the annual average, which means really total failure, during the months of sowing, July, August and September, and practically there is no rain when development takes place and grain forms. I do not mean to imply that nature's freaks have not helped some strips of land in showing some growth but exceptions only prove the rule. Except where sajja was grown in lands under wells and in rare instances in wet ayacut, sajja has miserably failed. Korra which is not sown either in wet lands or under wells but is sown only in the dry area and which is a crop raised in four months has failed much more miserably than sajja for similar reasons. Ragi is sown only in September and it is a crop that is raised in four months. Total failure of rains from the 13th of October must necessarily affect this 12-45 crop very materially. Rainfed tanks got dry. Wells very often depend p.m. for their supply on percolation from tanks and in a season of drought the best wells can but get a meagre supply. It is therefore true that ragi has equally failed. There is another crop of which I must make mention in a prominent manner and that is cotton. This crop is sown in July, August or September. It stands for six months on the field. It has a tenacity of keeping green under very adverse circumstances. Its first yield begins about January. You can very well fancy to yourselves what yield it may give with no rains from October. As a matter of fact this year you may pass from one end of the Markapur taluk to the other without seeing even this tenacious plant except in one field out of a length of a mile of cultivated area. In the more unfortunately situated black cotton areas of Koilkuntla, Pattikonda and parts of Dronachalam this appearance of green patches is greater.

" The officials on whom we have to depend for information on these questions when the Government has to act, have a peculiar way of thinking about these matters. Their reports are conveniently vague. Expressions are used in the reports which I am unable to understand, such as ' prospects not good; prospects not good but not bad; prospects not satisfactory; prospects unsatisfactory,' and a number of other terms whose gradation it is impossible to understand. Therefore it is difficult to fix the responsibility upon the officials in so far as their exact position is concerned with regard to the information that they give about seasons. But anyhow even from such records we find that the season has been bad in a number of taluks in the Kurnool district. In spite of that, collection of taxation is going on briskly, and a number of petitions have been sent to the Collector and a number of petitions must have been sent to the Board of Revenue. I know very urgent petitions have been sent, but some have been informed that no remission can be granted nor can the revenue authorities stop the collection of revenue. I find, Sir, that the Famine Code and the Board's Standing Orders, these two authorities followed by the officials seem to restrict the discretion of the Collectors in spite of themselves. Collectors seem to believe—I do not think

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that if the Collector is liberal he should feel any diffidence in the matter—while looking at these two statutes that they have no free hand to do what they would otherwise do. The Board's Standing Orders specifically mention that the local authority should take the initiative in the matter And the local authorities in matters where taxation and finance are concerned are particularly nervous. They are not over-anxious to help the ryot. They are not as anxious as they should be and as they are in duty bound to be. They are more anxious to see that they do not get a blackmark from the Government. Therefore, it very often happens that the revenue officials lower down, do not take early steps and it is always too late when they do take steps. I am afraid that that frame of mind will lead to very great difficulty There is another part of the Board's Standing Orders, No. 14, which stands in the way of the revenue officials acting courageously. That particular portion is this : that the history of two consecutive years of crop should be taken into consideration The local authorities conveniently forget that there is another clause which says that the local circumstances should also be taken into consideration. But generally we are told that if crops have not failed in the previous year, or even if the rain was not fairly sufficient, no remission can be granted and no action can be taken. In matters affecting seasons, I believe, literary authorities are agreed that early generosity is much more helpful than later remissions I therefore feel that in the Kurnool district, where we are sufficiently suffering, there is a great need to go ahead and order that the collection of tax should be forthwith stopped. There have been complaints brought to me that even in regard to regular kists the ryots have been asked to pay down for two or three and four kists together. However, the explanation offered by the officials is this : that the ryot who wants to get rid of insistent demands brings the money with him and wants the money to be received in advance. I think such a state of things is non-existent in our districts.

" As regards the Famine Code, I have to observe that there are a number of conditions and circumstances which the officer has to satisfy before he begins work. One of them is the contraction of credit. I am afraid it is more difficult in famine times than others for the simple reason that the reddi sits on the neck of the ryot and the ryot goes to the sowcar and, as long as the has property in land, the sowcar is so very avaricious that, no matter what the ryot is, he will charge his own rate of interest—exorbitant interest—and give some loan or other to satisfy the Government demand. Therefore, in so far as it relates to the Government kist, there is no contraction of credit and therefore the Government neglect to take the necessary precautionary measure of suspending the collection of tax. Suspension is a very necessary measure for this simple reason that you would save the ryot from selling the very little produce, the very little fodder and reducing himself to slavery. I have not asked in my amendment anything more than what is proper. I have asked that the suspension of revenue should extend to three months. I could certainly have asked for a whole year but I have not asked it for the simple reason that I expect the Government to go into the matter very carefully and immediately to sanction remission on a large scale. If the Government is not prepared to do it on the ground of my asking for suspension for three months, then it is absolutely useless, I concede. But I believe the conditions will force the Government. I know that the conditions are so bad that they will force the Government to take active measures to relieve the distress and to remit the taxes.

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"There is another factor in connection with the Famine Code, viz., that there should be a contraction of charity denoted by the wandering of paupers. The districts have become so pauperised that wandering of paupers is insistent. It takes place always and if there is a little more it cannot be observed so easily by the officials concerned. We see crowds of people at the door of the ordinary middle-class man every day. You can see it almost every day in the streets of Nandyal. Therefore, in these circumstances, these rules have become absolutely out of date, and that the Collector should be going on with his thumb on the rules and trying to stick to the letter of the law is a pity. That happens because the human element is not sufficiently infused into this system of administration. I am sorry to say it, but I am almost certain that whenever a petition is presented, whenever a representation is made some Board's Standing Order or some Famine Code provision or some rule is quoted and it is thrown out and the Government do not take sufficient interest. When I say this, I do not mean that there are not Collectors who are sympathetic. I know that in my own district some little help has been rendered by stopping the early burning of grass, by granting concessions with regard to grazing in the worst affected area. But that, I submit, is insufficient and is absolutely inadequate and I do hope the Government will make the officials do, what they are not able to do even though they might have a feeling to do. I do not wish to say anything more on the subject. I hope that this amendment, that I have proposed, will have your unanimous approval and something will be done for the poor districts that I and my friends represent."

*Mr. P. Siva Rao:—" Mr. President, Sir, I heartily second the amendment that has been ably moved by my hon. Colleague from Kurnool, Mr. Harisarvottama Rao. Sir, he has done a service to his constituency by depicting before you the lurid and miserable conditions in the districts he is living in. We have the misfortune to belong to the districts which are characterised as the famine zone in our Presidency where famine and scarcity have been the rule and prosperous seasons are an exception. Now, Sir, if we take into account the famines and scarcities that have prevailed in the Ceded districts, especially the district which I represent, for the past half a century you will find that almost every year we have either scarcity or want of rainfall or withering of crops or regular famine. Now, Sir, taking into account the season reports that have been sent up by the district authorities from time to time as printed in the *Fort St. George Gazette* we have these conditions in the Bellary and the sister districts. In the season report, Sir, dated the 14th December we have got this account of it: 'Hingari korra, cholam and cotton in parts of Bellary, Adoni, Rayadrug and Alur taluks withering for want of rain.' Again in the account dated the 21st December: 'Prospects gloomy in the Bellary taluk. State of the season causing anxiety in the Rayadrug, Adoni and Alur taluks and in parts of the Hospet taluk.' It is also noted: 'Employment available, but in parts of Bellary, Adoni and Alur taluks people are migrating to Kunivihalli and Sandur mines and railway works partly owing to the high wages offered.' I do concede that people have been migrating but I do differ from the official report that they have been migrating owing to the high wages.

"As a matter of fact, Sir, I know many a coolie that goes out is only 1 p.m. too willing to serve in any famine-relief camp that the Government might magnanimously open. And in a later account, Sir, of January 4th, the

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same state of things is noted to be prevailing: 'Prospects gloomy in the Bellary and Alur taluks. The state of the season causing anxiety in the Rayadrug and Adoni taluks and some villages of the Hospet taluk.' Then the migration of labourers in very large numbers is also noted. In the latest account we have got, i.e., in the season report, dated January 18, it is stated that 'Postponement of January kist ordered in forty-two villages of Rayadrug and eleven villages of Hospet taluk.' That is a matter for congratulation. Then, it is said: 'Fall in the price of ragi and white cholam at Bellary and of yellow cholam at Rayadrug. Grain stocks sufficient, but becoming scarce in parts of the Bellary, Alur, Rayadrug and Adoni taluks Employment available except in parts of Bellary, Alur and Adoni taluks. Two road works opened by the District Board in the Bellary and Alur taluks afford employment to many.' I must say that they afford employment to very few

"Now, Sir, from these official accounts that appear in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, it is evident that the conditions are very serious and critical, that famine conditions prevail, that labourers have been migrating not for securing higher wages but for sad want of employment, that cattle fodder is scanty, that cattle are starving and dying, that crops have withered or are withering and that men are starving. So far as the district of Bellary is concerned, they have started two road works, one near Halarvi near Alur taluk and the other in the Bellary taluk near Srinivasapuram. One work has attracted about 1,800 labourers, and the other work about 800 to 1,000 labourers. Now, what I wish to contend for is this: that these test-works are sufficient indications of the prevalence of famine conditions in those places, and what the Government have to do forthwith is to declare the area as famine-stricken and to open famine-relief works under the provisions of the Famine Code.

"Now, Sir, the amendment moved by my hon. Colleague, Mr. Harisarvottama Rao, asks only for one main relief, i.e., the postponement of kist collection for three months. But the substantial relief we want now is that these tracts which are famine-stricken, should be declared as famine-affected, and the provisions of the Famine Code applied to them. What we want is, especially in the district of Bellary where these test works have been started under the auspices of the District Board and where they have been found satisfactory, that no more test-works need be started by the Government, but that a declaration may be forthwith issued in those areas, especially where these test-works have been found to be satisfactory. Now, Sir, sufficient reference has been made to what is known as the rigour of the Famine Code. The revenue officials swear by them and think that it is one of those sacred texts which could not be violated, and which are immutable for all time to come. I may say, Sir, that those provisions are too wooden, inelastic and ante-diluvian, and the sooner they are dispensed with or cancelled or set aside, the better Some time ago there was a committee appointed to revise the Famine Code in the light of the present conditions and the official members of the committee offered a solid phalanx of opposition with the result that the non-official members could not carry anything before them. I have been submitting, Sir, that we come strictly within the provisions of the Famine Code. The revenue officials have been sufficiently watching the conditions as their weekly season reports show, and cries of distress are heard everywhere. Men have been migrating and test works have also been

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started under the auspices of the District Board, and they have been attracting large numbers of people At first, the wages had been 3 annas for a male coolie and 2½ annas for a female coolie, and they were reduced, to enhance the rigour of the test to 2¼ annas for a male coolie and 2 annas for a female coolie. Even then the same numbers of labourers are coming in and they have been complaining that the wages are very low. I see therefore no reason whatever why the Government should abdicate one of their elementary functions and relegate these duties to the District Board. I heard yesterday at the site of the District Board works in the Alur taluk one and all complaining that the resources of the District Board and the local bodies are scanty and that they could not possibly continue the relief. They have not the agency to work the famine-relief works, and they would close the works very soon.

"Now, Sir, it is a matter for explanation as to why the Government should refuse to move in the matter and should leave everything to the local bodies with their scanty resources. Now, the time has come for the Government to step in, especially in the district of Bellary which I represent and with the conditions of which I am quite familiar, to make the declaration that the area is famine-stricken, and then to start famine-relief works. It is needless for me to say that the measures of relief are all provided for in the Famine Code. They take the form of gratuitous relief doled out in the villages, starting of famine-relief works with all their paraphernalia, opening of grain shops and fodder depots, suspension and remission of kist in the affected villages. They have to take stock in what villages the kist has been suspended. If the kist has been suspended, say, for two years, then they have to remit the tax altogether. Then they have to suspend the takkavi loans already advanced. Another form of famine relief is liberal advances under what are known as Land Improvements and Agriculturists' Loans Acts. Then, I will say also that they may dole out assistance to weavers and other artisans of the places. The preservation of cattle is the last form of famine relief. The gist of the matter is this. Without any more fuss, without any more test works in those areas, which have been found from the official accounts to be famine-stricken, they may be declared forthwith as such To quote the language of the civil court, the main relief I ask for is the declaration that those areas are famine-stricken, and if they are declared to be famine-stricken, all those steps have to be taken under the Famine Code.

"Now, Sir, unfortunately in matters like these, the Government waits too long, and the local officials are too slow to realize any failure of crops lest they should be incurring the displeasure of the Government or officers above. Even tahsildars or deputy collectors hesitate a good deal before they send in alarming reports which involve a great cost to the Government. Under these circumstances, I necessarily suggest that a responsible officer—I know, Sir, that the Settlement Commissioner and the Famine Commissioner visited our parts lately—a responsible officer must go round and call for reports as to which villages or areas are affected, and before anything serious happens, before cattle die in large numbers and men starve, before matters become hopelessly irremediable, something tangible should be done, not merely by way of starting road works but by starting works of permanent utility, which go to make for the permanent happiness and comforts of the people. It is not a matter which ought to be delayed. In this

connection, I may refer to the Tungabhadra project about which we have been interpellating this forenoon. I do not know why the Government have not seriously thought of doing something to remedy permanently the state of things by taking up that project. So, Sir, without taking any more of the precious time of this hon. House, I pray that immediate steps should be taken, and before long, in a week or so, relief camps should be opened here and there, in some suitable places, the collection of takkavi loans should be remitted, and all those reliefs which should follow a declaration of famine may be extended forthwith. Delay, I am afraid, would be disastrous. Time lost would simply make matters far worse."

Rao Bahadur K. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Before you put this motion to the House, I would suggest, Sir, that if Mr. Harisarvottama Rao's amendment is to be disposed of first, though it is more comprehensive than the other amendments proposed by some other members, as you will see, there are some wider resolutions tabled covering more districts, and they cannot unfortunately be taken up on some ground or other. Now, may I suggest that for some time the Standing Order may be suspended and those wider resolutions may be taken up ?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have already said that as to the area this amendment may be further amended by adding further areas. Therefore, hon. Members who are anxious to include other districts or parts of districts are at liberty to send in their amendments as amendments to this amendment, and I am going to allow a discussion on this amendment."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" There are already some amendments, and they will be taken up in order ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" What are the amendments ? "

1-15 p.m. * Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" My own amendment as regards Coimbatore. I thought one by one they would be coming up."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The procedure will be that hon. Members who want to amend this amendment will have to send in their amendments to suit the wording of this amendment. Now the amendment of Mr. Harisarvottama Rao is open for discussion."

*Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" I beg permission to amend Mr. Harisarvottama Rao's amendment, which is now for discussion before the House, by introducing the following words in last but one line, after ' Kurnool district ' : ' in the Ongole, Vinukonda and Palnad taluks in Guntur district and in such other parts of the other districts in the Presidency in which the monsoons have failed '. "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think it is better that the hon. Member for Guntur confines himself to the Guntur district as other Members of the House are anxious to give notice of other amendments concerning their districts. "

* Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" I shall be very glad to accept the suggestion given by the hon. the President, but, in sheer justice to myself, I may be permitted to say one word. I could confine myself to my own district for which I have authority to speak, but the other Members of my party also wanted that other parts of other districts should be tacked on to the amendment. But now that the other Members are permitted by the hon. the President to move suitable amendments regarding their districts, I confine

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myself to Guntur district. My amendment is as follows:—' After the words "in the Kurnool district" the following words be added: "In the Ongole, Venukonda and Palnad taluks in the Guntur district".'

"Sir, Ongole is one of those old areas which was once in the Nellore district which even in normal times has been in the famine zone according to the Government accounts, and is always subject to the failure of both monsoons. No monsoon affects this particular area. Therefore, in ordinary times and under normal conditions, the crops yield very little there. Only recently, on account of the water of certain tanks being utilized for cultivation purposes, some portions of villages are benefited. But the normal condition in the Ongole taluk is one bordering on famine. Speaking of this year, all the dry crops have failed. There has practically not been even a shower, not even summer showers few and far between. It is therefore one tale of woe from the beginning of the year till now. And Ongole, as this House might remember, is noted for its cattle. The Ongole Show used to attract many persons not only from this country but even from outside the country. Now there is no fodder for the cattle. There is hardly water in the tanks even for men. This is the chronic condition in Ongole. But I am sorry to bring to the notice of this House that the Revenue Divisional Officer of Ongole seems to think otherwise. It is once again the old story of the doctor knowing best when a man was to be thrown overboard, though at the particular time that the doctor fixed the man was alive and struggling still. The doctor knows best and he must be thrown overboard was the reasoning of the men. So even in these cases, though people were starving and cattle were driven away to the wet taluks and most of the people do not find employment in their own taluks, the Revenue Divisional Officer seems to think otherwise. I was in Ongole myself when Mr. Vernon was visiting this taluk, and I was told on full authority that people in a certain village had only one meal a day for the last one month. Much worse is the condition in other villages in the Ongole taluk. Now, a number of young and old gentlemen, respectable gentlemen, with status in life, called for a public meeting and formed themselves into a strong and representative committee consisting of some members of the taluk board, some members of the municipal council of Ongole, some rich land-lords and others. And this Committee, out of sheer humanity, was going about doing social work, and approached the Revenue Divisional officer. The Revenue Divisional Officer who came to Ongole seemed to take no notice of this representative body and called for credentials, though notices were published in all the newspapers locally and in some Madras papers that a public meeting was held at which I had also the honor to be present and a strong and influential committee was formed for doing social work. I am glad to say we have in the person of Mr. Duff, the Collector, a sympathetic officer. I am constrained to say this, as far as this particular item of famine relief is concerned. Even he is possibly influenced by other officers of lower grade. He has at any rate done us the benefit of appointing a special tahsildar for giving loans under the Agriculturists Loans Act. But there is no money to be given. I am told on good authority that he is about to address—if he has not already addressed—the Government to place about Rs. 80,000 at his disposal. A tahsildar was appointed just a few days ago. Already there are applications pending with him for Rs. 1,20 000. So, taking the normal conditions into consideration, I must say, without being charged with exaggeration, that we would require at least 3 to 5 lakhs of rupees if the Government means to do justice to these poor ryots who are

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stricken with famine. As far as the cattle is concerned, there are a number of forests which do not deserve the name of forest reserves. These are merely forests in name. There are no trees more than perhaps two feet high. They are more shrubs than trees These are said to be forests and cattle are prevented from going there. I would in the particular circumstances request the Government to issue orders to the local forest officers allowing the ryots to graze their cattle till such relief as Government think they can afford to these poor ryots is rendered.

" There are a number of irrigation projects which have been banging fire for years. One is Pulikonda project for a dam on the stream Musi near Ongole and for diverting the water for irrigation purposes in Ongole taluk. I am told that for three or four years a particular officer was stationed there to take readings. These readings have not yet been reduced to writing. Whatever that may be, there is that project It is a very useful project which will irrigate about four to five thousand acres. I would suggest very humbly to Government to undertake this project as a minor irrigation work for famine relief. There are a number of tanks in Ongole taluk which have been neglected for many years. Whether they be under the management of trustees or under the management of Government, for the last 12 years no repairs have been effected to these tanks. These tanks may be treated this year as famine-relief works. I have noticed from the papers a number of articles dealing with the situation in a calm, cool and business-like manner. The Taluk Board and the District Board have been promising the people a number of roads. There are as many as nineteen roads pending fulfilment, and some of these may be undertaken as famine works. The Taluk Board of Ongole has already sanctioned a contribution of some thousands of rupees to open fodder depots. They could get fodder from the wet taluks, but the cost of conveyance would be enormous. Therefore I would suggest to the Government to recommend to the railway authorities either to cheapen the railway rates or otherwise to help the people during this distressful season. I would also suggest that instructions may be issued to the revenue officers that the kists may not be collected at once, and in some cases they may not be collected not only till the end of this fasli, that is, until June, but till next seasonal crops are reaped Therefore I would suggest that the Government will be pleased to take into consideration the peculiar conditions of Ongole and Palnad and Vinukonda taluks and see that the land tax is not collected for the whole of this year till better seasons arrive, and next year they may be collected, and in certain cases, where the ryots are absolutely unable to pay anything, they may be given remissions. With these words, I beg to move my amendment for the acceptance of the House."

* Mr. C V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I second it."

* Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu :—" Mr President, Sir, it is no doubt a fact that the Ongole taluk of my district is very badly in need of some relief under the Famine Code. It is also a fact that thousands of cattle belonging to the district were sent to the wet land area, and there is not a drop of water there either for men or for cattle to drink. The fodder question is another question which is causing a great deal of anxiety to the people. During the cultivation season, hundreds of cattle used to be sent to the Palnad area. This year, for want of rain, there is no grazing facility even in that area. There are some reserve blocks there and we asked the

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Collector in view of the scarcity of fodder and water to throw open these blocks for grazing cattle, receiving their usual fees, but I am sorry to say that I received a reply from the Collector that he could not do so. As a result, thousands of men from Palnad, Vinukonda and Ongole taluks have now gone over to the wet areas with their cattle.

" All that I wish to say now is that there is a dire necessity to make some arrangement for getting water. The railway authorities should be asked to provide special facilities to carry water and fodder from Tenali, Bapatla, etc. They may be asked to open suitable centres in the affected areas. I should like to mention in this connexion that export of fodder should be restricted, so that the cattle in the famine-affected areas may not suffer for want of fodder. There is no water anywhere in the tanks and people are going a distance of six or eight miles and carrying water in big barrels in their carts for themselves and their cattle. That is the horrible state of affairs and something must be done immediately to relieve their distress. In this connexion, I am glad to see that the long-pending question of the Palnad railway has been sanctioned. If the work of this new line is taken on hand immediately, even if no famine work is opened, this will give a lot of work to these distressed people of the affected area. There is no work to be newly undertaken by the district board, as unfortunately all the works for this official year have been already completed. I should like to mention in this connexion that all the officials—Tahsildars, Deputy Collectors and Collectors and even the Member of the Board of Revenue—have shown commendable promtitude investigating the real conditions with very great sympathy for which people feel most grateful. The Government must look into these things and try to relieve the distress of the people. With these few words, I support the amendment. " 1-30 p.m.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I will now put the amendment to the House. If this is carried, the amendment of Mr. Harisarvottama Rao as amended by this amendment will be taken up later. "

The amendment was adopted and Mr. Harisarvottama Rao's amendment stood amended.

The House then adjourned for lunch at 1-35 p.m.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.).

IV. MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE TO DISCUSS IRRIGATION FACILITIES UNDER THE METTUR PROJECT—*cont.*

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I move

> '*that the business of the House be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the unsatisfactory nature of the G.O. No.* 1974, *Irrigation, dated* 16*th December* 1926, *and the urgent necessity of modifying it, especially with a view to grant some irrigation facilities under the Mettur scheme to the districts of Coimbatore and Salem.*'

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" I second it."

* Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI :—" I move an amendment to the motion for adjournment, viz., to add the word ' Trichinopoly ' after the words ' Coimbatore and Salem '. Sir, I brought this to your notice yesterday."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will confine his remarks to the admissibility of his amendment."

* Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI :—" Sir, you said yesterday that my amendment could not be moved as an amendment to the adjournment motion and that this point might be raised after the adjournment motion was moved. The adjournment motion, I submit, is in no way different from any other motion. This motion is treated in all respects as a resolution on a matter of public interest, the only difference being that the adjournment motion is a resolution on a matter of urgent public importance. That being so, I do not see any reason why this should be treated differently. There is nothing in the Standing Orders or the rules prohibiting an amendment being moved to an adjournment motion. Therefore, I submit that an amendment can be moved. Further, there is the inherent power in the President, where there is no specific provision to the contrary, to regulate the business of the House ; and the business of the House which is now the subject-matter of discussion can be better regulated and proper facilities afforded by this amendment being allowed. In substance, this amendment is completely relevant to and is not in any sense different from the subject-matter covered by the main motion. If precedents are to be followed, I submit there have been in this House three cases of this kind.

" Sir, you remember that an adjournment motion was made to consider Mr. Courtenay's report regarding the allegations against Mr. Kesava Pillai. After some discussion, an amendment was sought to be moved to that motion and it was allowed. The question was raised at that time whether an amendment can be moved to an adjournment motion and it was ruled that it can be done. Again, Sir, there was a motion for adjournment regarding certain speeches made at South Kanara by the then Minister for Excise. Then the question was raised—I suppose it was yourself that wanted to withdraw that motion—as to whether the provision relating to the withdrawal of a resolution would apply to a motion for adjournment, and an attempt was made to put adjournment motions on a different footing from ordinary resolutions. It was finally ruled by your predecessor in office that it is in no way different from an ordinary resolution and therefore that motion was allowed to be withdrawn. On another occasion, too, Sir, an adjournment motion was amended, and that was when Sir James Simpson moved a motion to consider the question of the remission of provincial contributions arising out of certain debates in the Legislative Assembly. On that occasion, the amendment was moved in order to secure unanimity of opinion. It was ruled at that time by your predecessor's predecessor in office that the adjournment motion can be amended, it being in no way different from the ordinary resolutions. Therefore, your two distinguished predecessors have ruled that an adjournment motion can be amended just like an ordinary resolution and that it is in no way different from it. Now, in this case, there are weightier reasons why this amendment ought to be allowed. Convenience also ought to suggest this course. My hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, has expressed his opinion that it would facilitate business if this amendment is allowed. So, I submit there is nothing in the Standing Orders prohibiting this amendment being moved. I have quoted three precedents of this very Council.

" So far as I can see, the rule applicable to adjournment motions in the House of Commons is Standing Order 10 of the Parliamentary Rules.

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There, in cases where motions for adjournment come under Standing Order 10 which exactly corresponds to our provisions, amendments are allowed. So, I request you to rule my amendment in order."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Can the hon. Member refer me to the Parliamentary Practice ? "

* Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI :—" Yes, in May's Parliamentary Practice, at page 251."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" On that point of order, my hon. Friend referred to the previous rulings. May I, with your leave, refer to the Standing Orders governing this matter ? Standing Order 32 says : 'An amendment must be relevant to and within the scope of the subject-matter of the clause or motion to which it relates.' I presume that it is not disputed that it is a motion. It is a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a certain matter. If it is granted that it is a motion, then Standing Order 32 provides that so long as an amendment is relevant to and within the scope of the subject-matter to which it relates, it is in order. Now, this amendment of my Friend, Mr. Narayanaswami Pillai, is to include the word 'Trichinopoly' in this motion of my hon. Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar. The motion refers specifically, you will notice, to the unsatisfactory nature of the G.O. No. 1924, Irrigation, dated 16th December 1926, and the urgent necessity to modify it, especially with a view to grant some irrigation facilities. Therefore, the definite matter which is sought to be discussed is the unsatisfactory nature of the Government Order, and the reference to Coimbatore and Salem is intended merely to draw special attention to them ; because the words used are ' especially to grant some irrigation facilities '. If you now turn to the Government Order itself, there is a reference to Trichinopoly.

'The problem, therefore, before the Committee was to determine whether any part of the area in that district could forego its claims in favour of a corresponding area in the Coimbatore, Salem and Trichinopoly districts, without an undue sacrifice of efficiency.'

" Then, later on in paragraph 4, the order says :

'The extension of irrigation in the Trichinopoly district, though it does not present similar engineering difficulties, would involve a water-rate as high as Rs. 20 per acre in order to cover interest at 6 per cent on the extra expenditure of Rs. 42 lakhs.'

" So that, the subject-matter of the resolution which is the Government Order, the unsatisfactory nature of which this motion seeks to discuss, refers to the very district which is the subject-matter of the resolution. I therefore submit, Mr. President, that the amendment is relevant to and within the scope of the subject-matter of the motion to which it relates ; only the amendment should not have the effect of being a negative vote. Subject to these two conditions, and it not being inconsistent with any previous decision of the Council, an amendment may be moved. And this is a motion as defined in rules 11 and 22 of the Legislative Council Rules. This being a motion and an amendment being relevant to and within the scope of the subject-matter sought to be discussed, I submit, Sir, this is in order.

" I want to add only one more submission for your consideration. If motions for adjournment are not susceptible of any amendments, the result will be that, however defective the wording may be, however unanimous the House may be with regard to the change proposed in the amendment both sides of the House agreeing, it will be a case of tying our hands. It will be a

different thing, Mr. President if the hon. the Law Member were to say that this addition of the word 'Trichinopoly' is an entirely new matter uncovered by the scope of the original motion and therefore he is taken by surprise and cannot meet it; I shall be surprised, if he says so. Because it seems to me that the order refers to Trichinopoly and therefore he must be prepared to-day to meet this amendment also.

"Moreover, Sir, so far as the convenience of the House is concerned, of which also you are the judge, every section of the House will heave a sigh of relief, if really consistent with the rules, you admit this amendment. Otherwise, the result will be, we shall be discussing the same matter again and raising the same questions and obtaining the same answers with regard to one district after having spent one day discussing this matter. I do not think our rules and Standing Orders are so defective as to contemplate any such phenomenon in this House. Literally interpreting the rules, as the amendment is absolutely within the scope of the motion, the moving of it will be wholly in order. And this is also governed by precedents to which my hon. Friend has referred."

2-45 p.m. * Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, in regard to the point of order, the amendment which is sought to be proposed is entirely out of order. The hon. Member for the University has drawn your attention to Standing Order 32 which says: 'An amendment must be relevant to and within the scope of the subject-matter of the clause or motion to which it relates.' It describes what ought to be the nature of the amendment and it certainly does not give the right to move an amendment of a substantial nature. Any power which is given to this House to move an amendment is given by the two other Standing Orders which I shall presently refer to—I mean one regarding resolution and the other regarding legislation. As regards legislation, this is what the Standing Order says: 'When a motion has been agreed to by the Council that a Bill be taken into consideration, any Member may propose an amendment of such Bill.' If according to the hon. Member for the University—Standing Order 32 gives the right to a Member to move any amendment, there is absolutely no need for Standing Order 45. Then as regards resolution, Standing Order 59 says thus: 'When a resolution is under discussion, any Member may subject to all the rules relating to resolutions move an amendment to such resolution' and notice for such amendment under Standing Order 60 must be two clear days. As regards adjournment motions, you will be pleased to note that Standing Orders 20 to 23 do not give the right to move any amendment. So, I submit the hon. the President is not given the right of allowing any amendment to an adjournment motion. I say that the right to move an amendment to an adjournment motion has been purposely denied and it is not the privilege of every hon. Member of this House to move an amendment to an adjournment motion as he pleases. The subject-matter of the adjournment motion which was under consideration yesterday was with reference to Salem and Coimbatore districts, and His Excellency the Governor has allowed such a motion to go. What is sought to be included now in the adjournment motion is the Trichinopoly district. Of course His Excellency the Governor has given you consent to move the adjournment motion. But how can you take it that he has allowed this amendment to be discussed, which it is certainly not within the competence of hon. Members of this House to discuss

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or of the hon. the President to allow a matter which have not been before His Excellency? The hon. Member for Trichinopoly and other Members have quoted precedents to show that amendments were allowed to be moved to adjournment motions on previous occasions. One of those cases referred to the suspension or the removal of the excise duty and the other referred to the Imperial Bank Fraud Case. When discussions were taking place on these matters, it was expressly stated that the amendment that was allowed was merely verbal and the subject-matter of the adjournment motion was not at all altered. The amendments proposed on those occasions were only verbal, and they simply sought to express the main motion in a more definite form. The amendment that is now proposed is of a substantial nature, and a perusal of the previous proceedings referred to will clearly show that it cannot be allowed. I submit that the motion which was proposed yesterday by Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar will be substantially altered if this amendment is allowed. What this amendment seeks to do is this: 'by the adjournment motion of Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar he wants that extension of cultivation should be given to Salem and Coimbatore districts and that water should be taken to those districts in order to afford more irrigational facilities to those districts; by the present amendment Trichinopoly also wants water.' I submit that this amendment is of a substantial nature and is entirely out of order."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think that a distinction should be made with reference to the stage at which an attempt is made to introduce an amendment to an adjournment motion. The House perhaps will remember that after leave was granted yesterday to move the adjournment motion of Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, an attempt was made by Mr. Narayanaswami Pillai to introduce an amendment to include Trichinopoly also so as to bring it within the scope of the adjournment motion. Then I said that the subject could be taken up for consideration when the main motion was under consideration. Now he has moved that amendment to the motion of Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. The question for consideration is whether the amendment is to be admitted or not. The hon. Member for Trichinopoly has not given me sufficient references. According to Parliamentary Practice as laid down by May on page 248, thirteenth edition:

'Debates on these motions (that is, motions for adjournment of the business of the House for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance) are confined strictly to the matters with regard to which leave to move the adjournment of the House was asked.'

"I am aware of the various precedents in this House. But I presume that the House is aware that the Presidents in India meet annually and discuss points of order. If we are to take their decision as a high authority, no amendment to an adjournment motion is to be allowed. I therefore rule that this motion is out of order. I feel constrained to restrict the scope of the debate and unless hon. Members are alert to move their amendments in proper time, I cannot allow them to be moved afterwards. I shall have sometimes to restrict the debate in order to establish good precedents in the matter of procedure of this House."

* Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI :—"On a point of order, Sir, can a Member move an amendment before a motion is actually moved?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The question does not arise now."

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* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" It may be considered by some hon. Members of this House that this resolution containing as it does two districts, namely, Salem and Coimbatore, may not be as important as to deserve their careful consideration. Taking the history of this question for the last four or five years and considering also what I would call the consistent policy on the part of the Government, and the necessity of this House to see that the promises that are made by the Government are practically maintained even though experts may come and go, I think this proposition will be very important. I will presently show that not only in the interests of these two districts but in the interests of the Mettur project itself which is likely to cost the very large sum of seven crores of rupees that this proposition should be carried. I will briefly state about the project itself. It is to erect a large dam one mile long and 200 feet high about 35 miles north of Erode Railway Station across the Cauvery river and there impound a large quantity of water which will affect by stagnation a length of about 35 miles up the place where the dam is erected. Unfortunately the people of Salem and Coimbatore who are living alongside of the dam are expected to submerge a large area of cultivated and uncultivated lands of about 55 square miles in extent and this dam is erected as it were to drown a large number of villages consisting of vast tracts of cultivated and uncultivated lands both garden and otherwise. Therefore we should see that, when a large number of people living for centuries and centuries and for generations and generations on both sides of the river Cauvery are driven out homeless and landless, some proper remedy is given to them. They are begging for a small mercy. It is for this small compensation that I shall place a few facts before the House. The people of Coimbatore and Salem districts are not unreasonable. They raised practically no sort of objection to the scheme itself because it was put forth as a scheme producing a good deal of benefit to the country at large. Therefore all that I want to say is that some reasonable compensation should be given to these people. It is not yet known as to what will be the population that will be driven out homeless. But I take it as I said two years ago that the population will be about 200,000 people. Is it fair for any Government, is it fair for this House to support such a Government in driving away 200,000 people against their wishes and against all the promises that were held out by the Government? The hon. the Law Member brought this question of Mettur dam in this House in the year 1924 and there was a strong feeling on the part of some of us from Coimbatore and Salem and Trichinopoly districts that we should not agree to such a thing. Especially the people of Coimbatore and Salem having adduced very strong moral reasons in their favour said that they would oppose the scheme tooth and nail and until their lives were in their body. The hon. the Law Member on behalf of the Government, so to say, entered into a compromise with us. We were practically reduced to it, and if I may use a stronger expression I may say we were hypnotised . . ."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I will not object to it."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" So, what I submit now is that some reasonable compensation by way of allowing water should be given to these poor people who will be driven out landless and homeless. I ask, what is the moral justification for erecting alongside of the river Cauvery a big dam? There are some lands between the river and the two ridges on both

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sides and when once you erect a big dam across the river about 20,000 acres of lands on the side of the Coimbatore district and 25,000 acres of lands on the side of the Salem district are capable of being irrigated and we put forth some cogent reasons and also our moral right that we should be given the facility of using some water for irrigation purposes, so that the dry tracts of about 45,000 acres which are situated on both sides of the river may be cultivated with that water. The rainfall in Bhavani taluk is very poor. My hon. Friend, Mr. Harisarvottama Rao, was kind enough to say this morning that Coimbatore is second more or less in rainfall as compared with his district. Shall I add, Sir, that this vast district with a number of rivers running across it is second last in the list of nanja ayacut lands in this 3 p.m.
Presidency? If we ask for the small mercy of a small tract of 20,000 acres more being added to the nanja ayacut, are we unreasonable? Similar argument will apply to the case of Salem. There is nothing impossible in what we are asking; the ayacut is situated on either side of the river. The hon. the Law Member made a speech on the 18th August 1924 from which I shall quote a few words. It was then a very conciliatory speech.

" At page 105 of the proceedings of the same date, he says:

'After I came in this House, and indeed before I came, it has been pointed out to me that there was a feeling of apprehension entertained that in this matter non-official opinion ought to be availed of by the Government in order to scrutinize the details of the alignment of the channels and of the distributaries. Also about the area to be irrigated it has been pointed out to me that it is possible that certain districts, such as Coimbatore and Salem, might derive a larger and a more extensive benefit by a more proper and more carefully designed alignment of the distributaries.'

" Well, Sir, I should state that the Mettur project, as now formulated by the Government, is to dam this water, take away 56 square miles of land from us without giving us one drop of water and taking all the water to a place 200 miles down the river. It amounts to giving unto those who have already got. Tanjore has now got eight taluks of wet ayacut; and now it is proposed to give them two more taluks of wet ayacut. The whole of the 300,000 acres now proposed to be irrigated will be in Tanjore. Not even one acre is to be in Salem or Coimbatore.

" The speech of the hon. the Law Member eluded us and enticed us. It disarmed all our opposition. He stated on the same day:

'I assure you and I have behind me the authority of the Chief Engineer for this purpose, that it is open to us, with the advice of that Committee, to alter the alignments, so as to make provision for a better or a more equitable distribution of water, or what may be called the alteration of the area to be irrigated. That is a matter quite within the competence of this Government. What is wanted is that the root idea should be approved of, so that the money may be earmarked and set apart for this purpose. These details will be worked out with the utmost possible collaboration of those responsible for the districts and representatives of the people of these districts. On that perfectly clear and unequivocal undertaking, I trust that the hon. Members of this House will see their way to accepting this resolution.'

" But the unanimous recommendation of the Committee above referred to, including the hon. Member, Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar, that Coimbatore should be given 20,000 acres of *nanja* ayacut and that the question of Salem should be considered was thrown to the winds. The Committee consisted of the three representatives of the Coimbatore district, one Member from Salem who is now the hon. Chief Minister, Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar of Tanjore, and Messrs. Seturatnam Ayyar and Narayanaswami Pillai, the representatives of the Trichinopoly district. The Committee had several

meetings at which either the present hon. Law Member or the hon. Mr. Campbell who acted for him was present. The Chief Secretary to Government and the Secretary to the Public Works Department or the Revenue Department were present. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation was also a member. The Law Member always presided. With the assurance of the hon. Law Member to which I have made reference, the Committee went on with its deliberations. Even at the first meeting of the Committee it was decided that Coimbatore should have the irrigation of 20,000 acres. The land referred to runs between the Cauvery and the ridge of mountain and it also runs from the dam up the river Bhavani near the town of Bhavani. In the Committee a proposal was also made that Coimbatore should have an addition of another 60,000 acres. The Chief Engineer said that the rate would be Rs. 27 per acre for Bhavani, whereas the rate in Tanjore would be only Rs. 15. Tanjore is the pet child of the Madras Government for this purpose. But I have heard complaints from some leading mirasidars of Tanjore that they would not pay Rs. 15 and I have also got some letters from some leading mirasidars stating that they would not pay Rs. 15 for the water and that they would pay only what they think proper. I challenge the hon. the Law Member to show any agreement that he would get Rs. 15 from Tanjore. But we of the Coimbatore district were willing to pay any amount the Government asked for, if only we were given a few drops of water. The Chief Engineer, Mr. Hawkins, was a very sympathetic man and he came with me to see many of the affected parts and attended many meetings of the Committee. He said that the chief obstacle was that the rate would be Rs. 27 for the 20,000 acres near Bhavani and Rs. 29 for the area in Salem. Of course if we have to construct additional channels, it would be a little more costly. At that time I wrote a long communication to the hon. the Law Member which was published in the *Hindu*. I gave cogent reasons why in the interests of the two districts, and in the interests of the Government, the Presidency and the country as a whole, our proposals should be accepted. The hon. the Law Member wrote to me a reply which, I learn, was circulated to the Members of the Cabinet. In his reply to my letter the hon. Law Member did not contradict any of my reasons, he only stated that it would be impossible to grant any large alignment for which they would have to go to the Secretary of State; but for small alignments they would have no difficulty in carrying out. The Chief Engineer said that we would have to pay Rs. 27, while Tanjore would have to pay only Rs. 15. We agreed to that also."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Does my hon. Friend refer to the letter of Mr. Evans, dated 20th August 1925 ?"

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Quite so, Sir."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" It does not contain what the hon. Member refers to. It simply runs thus :

'I am desired to say that the larger questions raised in your memorandum seem to involve a radical redesigning of the scheme. This is out of the question as the project has been accepted by the Government and the Legislative Council in a definite shape and has been approved in that shape by the Secretary of State. Whether without interfering with the main features of the scheme some provision might not be made for the irrigation of land in the Salem and Coimbatore districts is a question for consideration by the Committee . . .'

" Is that the letter ? "

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Quite so, Sir."

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* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" On a point of order, Sir. The letter has not been placed on the table of the House and, I submit, the hon. Member is not at liberty to quote from it."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The letter was referred to by the hon. Member from Coimbatore but he did not read from it. I wanted to know whether it was the particular letter to which he made reference."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" No paper must be quoted by hon. Members on the Treasury Bench, unless it is placed on the table of the House. Either the paper should be placed on the table of the House, or it must not be quoted from."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am quite content, Sir. If my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, will not refer to it, I shall not also do so. He referred to it first and I only wanted to ascertain whether he referred to this particular letter."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I did not read it."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" It is quite open to the non-official Members of the House to refer to any document. They are under no obligation to place them on the table of the House. But Government Members, according to the rules of this House, are precluded from quoting from documents which are not placed on the table of the House. That is the point I raise for your ruling."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" In this case the hon. the Law Member did not quote from any Government document in his speech. He only wanted to verify whether the hon. Member from Coimbatore was referring to a particular document. Neither of the hon. Members was quoting from any document and I think the hon. the Law Member is justified in asking for information from the hon. Member from Coimbatore whether he was referring to a particular document. Of course, the hon. the Law Member will not be allowed to quote from that letter without placing it on the table of the House."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I was afraid when the hon. the Law Member threatened me with the question whether I referred to the particular letter which he had in his hand. Though the Government Order which is the subject-matter of this motion was passed as early as 16th December 1926, it did not reach me till last Saturday when I was starting for Madras and I could not therefore get hold of all connected papers. The letter which he now read supports my contention. The bigger question to which he referred was the question of irrigating 100,000 acres. There is no use of saying that the Council has passed the whole scheme. The Council has passed it only subject to that undertaking. He says that if it is only a small alignment it can be granted.

" It was never whispered in the letter that our demand to have at least 3-15
20,000 acres on this side of the river was in any way illegal or too much. p.m.

(The gong was sounded.) " I do not know, Sir, whether I began at the exact time because there was a lot of discussion on the point of order."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" On an adjournment motion, ordinarily hon. Members are allowed only 15 minutes and the President has got discretion to extend the time in the case of the hon. Mover of the adjournment motion

and the Government Member who replies to it. Since we have already taken a good time of this afternoon regarding the point of order, I have allowed the hon. Mover 20 minutes. He will finish his speech very soon."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I am entirely in your hands. I was under the impression—it is a mistake perhaps—that you would extend to me the courtesy of having half an hour."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I allow only 25 minutes."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I think I have the right to reply, because I can utilize that occasion to make some more remarks."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The question may be raised later on. I am not going to give a decision now." (Laughter.)

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I think that I can make my remarks then. However, Sir, I am entirely at your mercy. Twenty minutes was taken for the point of order. If you think that I am unnecessarily saying anything or prolonging the discussion, you may rule me out of order any time.

"I was quoting to show how we were induced to enter into this compact. Committee meetings were held and we were specifically told at one meeting that we should get the consent of the ryots concerned to pay Rs. 27 in the case of Bhavani and Rs. 29 in the case of Salem. I took the trouble of travelling along the villages in the two districts on the banks of the river, held meetings and had resolutions passed to pay Rs. 27 and Rs. 29. The Government thought that the unexpected had happened. Even at the last meeting of the Committee held on the 3rd and 4th September 1926—it was a full meeting including my hon. Friend Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar, and only my hon. Friend Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar was absent—Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar conceded that if it was a small area, he was not going to object. He added 'let not the tax in Tanjore be increased'. I agreed. Even to-day I do not want the rate to be paid by Tanjore to be raised. I am quite prepared to have Rs. 15 for them. I declare on the floor of the House that the people in my districts are prepared to pay Rs. 27 and Rs. 29 or even Rs. 30 or 40 because there is no drop of water. About two hundred thousand people will have to run away without our knowing where they have gone. I will quote one instance. I was taken to one of the villages. Day time was not sufficient; I was taken in a midnight. I told them that they would get money as compensation. The people said 'oh, damn your money; I have been here from generation to generation; I do not know any place beyond two or three miles of my village and you want me to go away far and wide from this place.' If I have been able to induce them to agree to the proposal, it is because we believed in the words of the Government that they would accept any reasonable recommendations of the Committee. On the 3rd and 4th September 1926 the Committee unanimously passed a resolution—the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, the hon. the Law Member, the hon. Member for Tanjore, the Secretary of the department are parties to it—that Coimbatore should be given 20,000 acres for irrigation. The point of Salem also was agreed to be again investigated. I leave it to you, Sir, to decide whether it is to the advantage of the two hundred thousand people to be driven away from their homes. Give some more facilities to people on this side of the dam; because they will be doing work in the wet fields and the work in the wet

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fields will be admittedly greater than that in the dry fields. There will be necessity for the maintenance of the dam; now every man will try to poke his stick across the dam and damn it. A great deal of discontent has already been created and I warn the Government to take note of the fact that this original discontent will be increased thousandfold if the Government do not give facilities after promise after promise, agreement after agreement has been made by them, and when we are prepared to pay enhanced rates. As regards the riparian rights possessed by various districts and as regards other considerations I do not say anything.

"I am afraid, Sir, that the hon. the Law Member and the Government are in the hands of the experts in this matter. If this dam had been built one year ago and if the floods had come a little later the dam would have been washed away and people on both sides of the river including Trichinopoly would have been drowned. Luckily for them the anicut was not built one year earlier and the flood did not come one year later. I asked a question this morning whether sufficient care had been taken with regard to the project. All I say is that experts should not be believed. Look at the Back Bay scheme. Even our own experts were responsible for increasing the estimate for the Tuticorin port from 40 to 57 lakhs of rupees. Two hundred thousand people are left to the mercy of these experts. I do not want to say anything more. I want the Government to keep up to the understanding. This matter has been unfortunately a muddle from the beginning; the Mysore agreement was a muddle; the selection of the place of the dam is another muddle; asking the experts to give their opinions is a muddle—three or four Chief Engineers have given different views. As early as 1904 Mr. Moss said that it was quite possible to give irrigation facilities for 50 thousand acres of land in Salem and Coimbatore districts. They say it has not been surveyed. Without surveying the land, how can they say that they can irrigate a certain extent of land and how can they fix the rates per acre? It will take 20 years more to complete the scheme, changing from place to place, changing machinery, changing materials and changing Engineers after Engineers. The whole time may go by and the area will be arid seven years hence. Our people are prepared to pay anything. They will be dying at the foot of the dam if they are not provided with irrigation facilities. I hope that the Government and the hon. the Law Member will accept the unanimous resolution of the Committee and to give an undertaking that they will be bound by it. With these words, I say that it is not too late for the hon. the Law Member to accept this motion on behalf of the Government."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, in seconding the resolution which has been so ably moved by my hon. Friend the Member for Coimbatore, I regret, not having been a member of the Cauvery Committee, I am not in a position to place before the House the wealth of details and other materials which he has been able to marshal on his side. I would request you to come to a final judgment on facts and figures of the intensity of the thirst of Salem for water as compared with that of my neighbours from Coimbatore. The need of Salem is even tenfold greater than that of Coimbatore. If Coimbatore, as has been represented by my eloquent friend, holds a very low place in the scale of rainfall, although I am not able to marshal statistics on my side, I know that Salem is no better than Coimbatore; the rainfall record for the last five years will amply prove that Salem is to-day—

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though not according to the provisions of the Famine Code but according to popular experience—suffering from very severe and almost chronic famine. No other evidence need be adduced except the fact that the transactions of the 500 or so co-operative societies and the registration statistics of the district will show that famine has taken a very deep root there ; and although the hon. the Law Member denied, in answering an interpellation of mine some time back, that the exodus of coolie labour from Attur taluk was alarming, yet his own department's report for the year 1925–26 clearly stated that the exodus of coolie labour from Salem was something very special to be noted by this Government. I may tell him that the ordinary methods hitherto adopted of conveying these poor people and wage-earners from Salem have been found to be insufficient by the recruiter. The poor wretches are taken during nights. The perpetrators it would appear are ashamed of their work ; the coolies are taken in motor lorries from Attur taluk night after night. I think a duplicate train is run very often by the South Indian Railway Company between Erode and Trichinopoly to speed the poor wretches on their way to Dhanushkodi, en route to Ceylon or Malaya. Sir, this is eloquent proof of the fact that Salem is very much in need of this relief. In Coimbatore at least, the Upper Bhavani project has been dangling before their eyes."

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I do not know whether this can be relied on because it may share a similar fate."

*Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"But there is at least some sort of consolation held up before the people of Coimbatore. But nothing is dangling before our eyes in Salem. I believe there was some years ago a Thoppur River project. That project has gone into oblivion from which it will perhaps never emerge again. When a deputation from Omalur taluk waited upon the hon. the Law Member, Mr. Hawkins, the Chief Engineer, was not able, in spite of a vigorous search, to find the whereabouts of those papers. Therefore, I reiterate my view that Salem is even worse off with regard to water-supply than Coimbatore. Sir, the hon. the Law Member in asking this House for a large grant for the Mettur Project used the memorable words 'make your arid desert overflow with milk and honey'. I do not know whether he used those words as an oratorical embellishment. But the people of Salem noted every syllable of those words and they have been waiting for the Mettur Project to make their lands flow, though not with milk and honey, at least with irrigation water. When I was a young boy, I can recall the great enthusiasm people were taking in the Nerunjapetti Annai scheme as the present scheme was then called. In those days Engineers were there perhaps to be a real help to the people. But now there seems to be a regular tyranny of the expert as it were. The Engineers of those days did not feel the difficulties of alignment which their successors in office seem to have suddenly discovered.

3-30 p.m. "Sir, if the papers connected with the original project are unearthed to-day, they will show that a very large and important portion of the Tiruchengode taluk would have been very well served by this canal ; but perhaps, as I said, there was no question of technique before those experts in those days. To-day Salem has got the misfortune of seeing that the dam, probably one of the biggest in the country, every cubic inch of it, placed on the soil of Salem, but not a drop of water conserved by that dam could be utilized by the children of the soil. Sir, my friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar has said that

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about 2 lakhs of people would, if not completely wiped out of existence, at least be driven out from their native soil. I need not say that in a poor miserable district like Salem, to leave the district will practically mean for these people being effaced from existence altogether. The original project, was, as I said, planned to benefit a very large portion of Salem; but if later day projects do not seek to benefit Salem, I believe it is due to the fact that the terms of the agreement of the Madras Government with the Government of Mysore stand in the way. I believe only 3 million acres or so is the limit of area allowed to be irrigated by this Mettur Project under the terms of the agreement with the Mysore Government. It is a stipulation which, I am afraid,—I am of course subject to correction—deprives Salem of the benefit for which it has been anxiously looking forward all these forty years. May I ask, Sir, whether the people of Salem are to suffer owing to the stringency of the terms of the arrangement with Mysore, an arrangement in which the people of Salem had no hand or part? It would look, if my information is correct, as if Salem people had been sold behind their backs and cheated of their expectations."

* Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"The agreement does not prohibit the irrigation of Salem."

* Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—"Sir, 3 million acres alone have to be provided for and it was sought to confine the major portion of this area to the Tanjore district, with the result that, as my friend said . . ."

* The hon. the President :—"Members are requested to address the chair."

* Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—"To him that has it shall be given and from him that has not it shall be taken away. Sir, as regards the belated Government Order which will be further belated before reaching our hands, the difficulties which now seem to beset the Government are said to be the difficulties of the soil and the prohibitive cost. What do the Government care, Sir, for the prohibitive cost, as long as there are patient millions to pay the high water-rate demanded. As regards the water-rate being high, I may say that while Tanjore is grudging to pay Rs. 15, Salem people are prepared—and I am strengthened in saying this by the opinion of my fellow members in this House from Salem whom I have taken care to consult—to pay Rs. 30 per acre. The cost is not absolutely prohibitive, the soil is virgin soil and the area is usually productive, and Rs. 30 per acre especially for garden and other paying crops such as chillies, tobacco and turmeric will not frighten the people of Salem. Therefore, I do not want Government to go out of their way to safeguard the finances of the ryots of Salem. We are quite prepared to pay it. We have been waiting for this not for a year or two, but for forty years, and now there is the further humiliation that every cubic inch of the big dam is placed on our soil while we are not to have a drop of the water. Even to-day, the bustle and the din of the Mettur works are reaching every home and every farm-stead and every homestead in Salem. The news about the machinery which is costly, both human and mechanical, and which are being assembled at the Mettur works are daily reaching even the poor ryots in the villages. The new special railway line the construction of which was hinted at by His Excellency the Governor in his opening address yesterday is already causing another great stir. Sir, it had been held out that the fields would flow with milk and honey, but we in Salem are not

so avaricious in our demands. We want provision for only 25 or 30 thousand acres. It is less than justice to say that the demand of Salem is excessive and that the wealth and prosperity of Salem should be given no chance of improvement. We are patient, we are moderate in our demand; we are prepared to forego all other rights; but this elementary justice we do want, justice for which we have been waiting for so long, and which we so much deserve. If the hon. the Chief Minister could speak out, I am sure he will make a strong case for this contention. He is the zamindar of an area which is not far from the area which will be served by this Mettur scheme. He knows the conditions extremely well, and I believe in the Cauvery Committee of which he was a member, he made a most eloquent case for the provision of water-supply for Salem. But to-day, Sir, I fear his lips are sealed and a less informed man than he has to plead for the cause of Salem. Still, as I began, I repeat, I do not want the House to be led either by the absence of vehemence in my arguments or by the omission of columns of statistics which I might be able to put forward had I the time to study, but to judge the issue by the intensity of the feeling of the Salem people in this matter and the patience they have been exhibiting for nearly half a century."

* Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" Mr. President, Sir, although I am not personally interested in one district or the other (Hear, hear) it is a problem in which I believe the Members of this House will take more serious interest. It is all because, Sir, of the arguments which have been used by the Government, and their expert staff, in investigating and in making provision for irrigation schemes which have been actuated, may I say, by a most foolish policy, for they have not got the slightest vision or imagination in working out these irrigation schemes. All that seems to actuate this Government is rupees, annas, pies and nothing else. I am not here to say that the Government should necessarily incur loss in connexion with irrigation schemes. I have my own views that most of the schemes that have been investigated and given up by the Government are really remunerative although by the peculiar methods, by the peculiar way in which the figures have been worked out and the vision with which those figures have been looked upon, the Government have always come to the conclusion that they were not remunerative. But to this question I will refer later on. Let the Government remember that the water that runs in these big rivers is a State asset and is not merely intended for the benefit of one district or one taluk, but that it is intended for more taluks and more districts. The Government ought to be in a position to see that the water that is contained in big reservoirs is properly apportioned between taluk and taluk and between district and district, wherever there is a possibility of doing so. But what is the Government doing? If in a particular taluk or a particular district the condition of the soil is such that it is easy for the Government or for the engineering staff to construct canals, that seems to be a point which weighs with them. If in taking water to a particular district or a particular taluk the people there are prepared to pay more than the others, that seems to be a point which weighs with them. If in a particular taluk or a particular district it seems to be less costly for them to take the water, that seems to be a point which weighs with them. I think, Sir, that none of these considerations ought to weigh with them, except the consideration that in coming to a conclusion they should decide as to which portions of a district or taluk must have a pre-eminent claim over the water of these rivers, how many people will be benefited by it, what is the state of the

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district or taluk, i.e., how far they are being affected by famine and how far natural rain is benefiting those districts otherwise, these are the things that ought to be taken more into consideration by the Government. There is another difficulty, Sir, which the Government do not seem to take notice of at all. Supposing they take water to one district alone, for every acre in that district, there are a number of acres in other districts which will suffer, and the consequences of that are really not for the good of the whole country. I also say this : supposing every taluk of Tanjore district is watered by this Mettur scheme, possibly the whole district will turn into a big malarial area and possibly the soil there may become unsuitable for the use of some manures which are considered necessary. These things do not seem to enter into the vision of the Government at all. If, on the other hand, four or five districts are likely to be benefited by one scheme and if that scheme is not enough to water each and every taluk in those four or five districts, what will be the result? In each district probably you will find enough resources in the way of green manure, etc., which will probably pay more in the end than water. These are the considerations which really ought to weigh with the Government rather than the mere considerations of rupees, annas, pies or the ease with which a reservoir could be constructed or a canal could be taken into a district.

" Again, Sir, it is this policy of the Government that a particular scheme, if it is to benefit a particular district, will pay them more, that has been really at the back of the Government in undertaking schemes. It is on this very consideration that for years together, a number of schemes in the Ceded districts, small schemes no doubt but schemes which would certainly benefit the people more than by merely undertaking one big scheme, have been held up practically. It was thought that if a bigger scheme was taken up it would pay them more than the smaller schemes would ; and I think on that consideration a number of schemes were being held up. Do the Government consider that the only consideration that ought to weigh with them is the number of acres that the scheme would bring under cultivation in one place, without any consideration for the various other spots or places that it would water? Sir, it is a problem which I believe the House ought to take into very serious consideration. The benefit of these natural resources ought not to go for the benefit of one district alone. This river is not an asset for one district or taluk. Every district where there is a possibility of the water being taken from this river should have an equal proportion,—equal in the sense that other things such as the state of the soil, the possibility of having enough water otherwise and the probable amount of rainfall that district has got and other such things are to be taken into consideration, and not alone the question of the mere extent of land that a particular scheme would benefit in one district.

" There is also another question, Sir, which is of equal importance in this connexion. My Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar has no doubt been very enthusiastic in saying that he was prepared to pay Rs. 26 per acre for the water which the Government would give to his district."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" No other go."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" Probably, some other Member, enthusiastic enough, might be prepared to pay Rs. 50 for water in his district and there

might also be some special circumstances to induce him to do so; but I believe, Sir, it is a very wrong enthusiasm. We must first of all consider the principles on which such payment is based.

3-45 p.m. "Does the Government believe that it has no duty to help the people who are situated in a condition where nature does not help them as much as other districts? I say, Sir, water being a national asset, it should be given not only to people of one district but to other people as well. They must consider that principle. The mere question of payment or rate which one district or taluk or one particular section of the people may be prepared to pay ought not to weigh so much with the Government. Are we not aware of rich people paying for poor people? Why not the same principle be applied in the case of irrigation also? If a particular area like Tanjore, Kistna or Godavari which may probably be situated near big rivers is to be supplied with water, it would certainly be less costly and more easy for the Government to supply them with water. At the same time it would certainly be very difficult for the Government to supply water to areas which lie far beyond those districts. To take water to such districts might rather be very difficult and it would also be very costly for the Government. But what is the principle which the Government ought to apply to a case like that? The principle I believe that the Government ought to apply in connexion with their big irrigation schemes is not the cost of the water that the Government can supply at a particular place or to a particular section of the people. There is the other test that must be applied and that is equitable and fair and which which can in the end work out as satisfactorily from the point of view of the Government as from the point of view of the people, viz., the value of the water for the people at a particular place, or a particular section of them. What is the principle you are now following with regard to land revenue settlement? Are you charging the same rate for rich soils and poor soils? What is the principle, let me know, on which that is based? Again, let me know what is the principle by which a man getting an income of Rs. 20,000 is to pay income-tax at a certain rate and a man getting less is to pay at a lower rate? These are all based on the well-known principles of taxation. You must be equitable; you must try to get from a man or a section of people or tract what each can pay. So, I believe unless the Government give up that wrong principle of taxing people for the water at a rather flat rate of Rs. 10, 12 or 15 an acre or at the cost price of the water for a particular section of the people or a particular tract, and apply the only equitable and just principle, namely, the value of the water for the particular section or tract, these inequalities cannot be set right. Unhappily nature has provided us with a lot of inequalities, and to a great extent Government can set right the inequalities which nature has imposed, by taxing water, not as I said at the cost price, but to supply it at the value of the water for the particular ryot or for the particular tract. I may be enthusiastic enough to-day now to pay Rs. 50 because, as my hon. Friend said, I cannot help it. The people there are dying for water and they may as well pay a bit more, but the Government ought not to take advantage of this distress in the people; they should not take advantage of this desire on the part of a few people of dry tracts like Coimbatore and Salem and the Ceded districts where people are dying not only for want of water for irrigation but for want of drinking water as well, and demand them to pay more. Let them consider this principle deeply whether the Government ought not to come to the conclusion that it

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will be much better to tax them according to the value of the water which is equitable both from the ryot's and the Government's point of view. That will set right inequalities. Now the rich man and poor man is asked to pay the same rate, on the same level; so also rich districts and poor districts; hilly districts where Government finds it very difficult to supply water are placed on the same level as plains like Godavari, Kistna, Tanjore, etc., where it is easy to take water. All these inequalities will be levelled and the Government will be doing an essential duty of helping the needy people, if my principle is adopted. Instead of that, the Government is trying—I do not quarrel with them for that—to help the less needy. They are trying to make the rich people richer and poor people poorer. It will be much better to help the poor, though I do not want to say that they should not help the rich. The Government is applying this vicious principle to which I referred in every department. Look at the Local Self-Government Department. They say 'You had better impose the education cess on yourselves and we are prepared to pay half of it'. What is the result? The poorer taluks cannot impose any education cess and they cannot therefore get any money, whereas the richer taluks and districts impose this tax and they get not only the benefit of imposing the cess but also the half share of the tax from Government. So even the Department of Local Self-Government is making poor people poorer and the rich people richer. So also the Irrigation Department. So I believe, Sir, that Government as well as this House will take seriously into consideration the principle which should be applied in charging water-rate, and if they only apply the principle I suggested I am pretty sure everything will be all right."

Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to support the motion which was so ably moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar. Before I say anything on this motion, I wish to thank my Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar for having taken up the cause of the Salem district also, by having included Salem in his motion. I do not think it is necessary for me to add anything to what has already been said by my hon. Friends, the previous speakers. Still, I would like to say a few words on the motion. Sir, when the idea of this Mettur project was started, the people of Salem were under the impression that the Salem district also would be given the privilege of getting water from this source, but afterwards it was known that the Tanjore district would be benefited and not Salem or Coimbatore districts. Thereupon in this Council after repeated requests a committee was appointed, and that committee after a long and detailed consideration I understand, passed a resolution that Salem and Coimbatore should be given the privilege, but I do not know for what reason the recent Government Order has been issued stating that the proposal of supplying water to Salem and Coimbatore should be abandoned. I see some reasons mentioned in the Government Order, but I do not think the reasons are very satisfactory. When crores and crores have been spent upon this project and this reservoir is constructed within the limits of the Salem district and many acres of land and many houses have been submerged in this project, I think it is but fair and just for the Government to view this question of supplying water to the Salem and Coimbatore districts more favourably. In case they do not do so, it would be injustice to Salem and Coimbatore also. With these few words, I support this motion."

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* Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar :—" Mr. President, Sir, it is true I do not represent Coimbatore or Salem, but I am sure my Friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, will not take me to task if I interest myself in matters regarding which he is most competent to enlighten the House. My object in supporting the motion of my Friend, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, is to show that great injustice has been done to the ryots whom he represents and also to the people of Salem whom my Friend Mr. Ellappa Chettiyar represents in this House. I remember, Sir, ever since the inauguration of this Mettur project, my Friend Mr Venkataramana Ayyangar with commendable zeal has been agitating for the inclusion of a limited area out of Salem and Coimbatore within the operation of this project. Time was therefore not wanting to the authorities to consider the claims of Coimbatore and Salem and concede their very reasonable demand by widening the scope and the utility of the design. Sir, this is the first considerable project that has been set on foot by the Government ever since the days of Mr. Pennycuick Sir Cotton and others. I think great care ought to be taken to widen the scope of this scheme as I said and to include at least a limited area of both Coimbatore and Salem. My hon Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar said that at least by way of compensation for the loss entailed on Coimbatore by that terrible process of eviction to which nearly 200,000 people are about to be subjected,as a compensation for that loss, a limited area of at least 20,000 acres ought to be included within the operation of this scheme. There are other reasons also why at least some portions of these districts ought to derive the benefits of this scheme. For the past many years whether it is owing to the floods or the Kannambadi dam or whether it is owing to the vagaries of the north-east monsoon, I find that the supply of water in the Cauvery has been most inadequate in the months of November and December. Therefore the only chance for promoting irrigation facilities is to have a big reservoir, as that in Mysore, where as much water as that reservoir will hold can be stored up at flood time when water overflows the Kannambadi dam. Secondly, it is better for us to have these limited areas included in one scheme rather have separate schemes for the simple reason that a scheme has to pass through so many stages, the preliminary stage, the committee stage, the consultation stage, discussion stage and so on, and I do not think it would be possible for any one Member to see the fruition of a scheme in his lifetime. Therefore, inclusion of these limited areas in Salem and Coimbatore in this scheme will certainly facilitate matters and confer a real benefit upon the ryots of those two districts. Thirdly, Sir, I want to put in a word, especially on behalf of Salem. In the case of Coimbatore, it is possible to think of a separate scheme because Coimbatore has two rivers. But what about Salem ? If a limited area in Salem is not to be benefited by this scheme, I must say there is absolutely no salvation for the Salem district because that district has no rivers worth speaking of or no water-supply worth considering, and to think of devising a scheme for Salem will be ploughing the sands. For these reasons, I heartily support the motion of Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar."

*Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai :—" Mr. President, the motion for adjournment comprises two parts, that is, the unsatisfactory nature of the order of the Government, and as a particular illustration of that unsatisfactory nature the two districts of Salem and Coimbatore have been chosen. I do not think that the hon. Mover intends that the unsatisfactory nature is

exhausted by the illustrations (Hear, hear) which he has chosen (Laughter). I am interested in Trichinopoly, not that I am less interested in Salem and Coimbatore. I freely and unreservedly agreed to the principle of conceding to the people of Coimbatore and Salem the right which they rightly agitate for. But I plead for equal justice to Trichinopoly. Perhaps the hon. Member for Coimbatore is not aware that long before they ever agitated for the inclusion of Salem and Coimbatore under this scheme, the people of Trichinopoly had been crying for it. I speak this subject to correction. I had 4 p.m. pointed out during the proceedings of the committee, and the hon. the Law Member knows it also, that there was an influentially signed petition which had been sent to the authorities as high as His Excellency the Viceroy. The authorities were then pleased to say that the scheme would be considered if and when it was actually taken up. The scheme was taken up about the year 1906 or 1907 and our petition was dated 1902. The investigations proceeded on the footing that Trichinopoly ought to have a substantial share of the benefit accruing under the scheme. In 1909 or 1910 it is well known that an engineer Mr. Benton who has few equals has reported that the scheme with an off take at Kattalai was the best one under the circumstances. I do not know why it was subsequently abandoned. Even now I venture to observe that the reasons for excluding Trichinopoly are far from satisfactory. It is admitted that there are no engineering difficulties; but the only reason urged for the exclusion of Trichinopoly is that it might get an acreage of 13 to 14,000. I submit, Sir, that this is hardly a sufficient reason and it does not bear scrutiny. What they say is this, viz., that they are going to give us this Kattalai North Bank canal by which you can irrigate by improvements under their present sources 13,000 to 14,000 acres. We have grave doubts as to the possibility in the first instance. Even if that were true and valid, I submit it won't be a ground against exclusion of Trichinopoly from the benefits which we would be otherwise entitled to. The Kattalai scheme is not a scheme which does not intend giving us any new acreage in any new scheme. It is meant only to guarantee the existing supply to the existing sources of irrigation and it will save the Government from a cost which is now invested in the korambus. So, the benefits which we are likely to get under the so-called improvements in duty are doubtful; and it is not a sufficient reason to exclude us from the benefits which we would otherwise be entitled to. What we say is as higher riparians Trichinopoly and the Trichinopoly residents are entitled to have a share of this water at least as I put it in the proceedings of the committee to the extent of not less than 50,000 acres. Let us examine the position a little closer. There is Tanjore which has now an acreage of over a million acres and there is this Pattukkottai taluk, a dry taluk, with unfertile soil which is now expected to be given three hundred thousand acres exclusively. It is to that exclusive giving to the Pattukkottai taluk that we take objection. Sir, I have already referred to the fact that the engineering authorities have thought it better to have an off-take at Kattalai which will benefit Trichinopoly. I was referring to certain disadvantages and certain gloomy things which I apprehended and on account of which I think the present scheme might not even be successful. It is not to be hoped that the moment you take water to Pattukkottai, then it is certain that we are going to have a success of the irrigational policy. We have to take into account the soil, the population and other incidental things. I understand that the soil in Pattukkottai is very unfertile and it is not as good as

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the soil of Trichinopoly. Secondly, Sir, it is not sufficiently peopled and one doubts whether it will prove as advantageous as it is now thought. Thirdly, Sir, the Pattukkottai taluk is not a taluk by which you are going to benefit the masses. More than 63 thousand and nearly a lakh of acres out of this are going to be shared by one zamindar or two zamindars. Is it going to be a benefit to the large mass of population which I say will be the case in case it traverses the territory south of Trichinopoly? So, are you going to benefit by this scheme a few or a single zamindar? I need not here repeat the incidental difficulties which the Government may themselves realize in the way of the realization of the water rate if and when it is imposed. It is not so in the case of Trichinopoly. Difficult questions of law may crop up and I do not know whether it is now guaranteed. I have heard it on the authority of Mr. Wallace, the authority who investigated this question in the year 1911 when he was asked to send a report to the Government of India on this matter. Sir, again the recent floods is another instance which reminds us of the danger of taking all this water of the Cauvery past down Trichinopoly and trying to divert it east of Trichinopoly. It was well known and it has been conceded on all hands that if there was to be a distributary west of Trichinopoly it could take off sufficient water and which could have afforded some relief during the time of the floods. These considerations, I say, were not at all considered by the Committee. As a matter of fact it would have been better if the Committee itself had been asked to submit a report on the facts as placed before them. But it is a matter for regret that the Committee was not asked to frame or write a report in which case each of us representatives would have been in a position to put forward our case to the best of our knowledge. Sir, again in relation to Trichinopoly there is this further fact that we are not trying to impound water to prevent Tanjore from taking what might be hers. Reference has been made to the speech of the hon. the Law Member at the time when he introduced the scheme in August 1924. And there he said referring to the floods that the floods were so great that the waters that had surplused into the sea were more than sufficient for three or four Mettur schemes. Sir, I lay stress on this point, viz., that in spite of the construction of the dam and reservoir at Mettur there is likely to be an unnecessary surplusage of water into sea and the south of Trichinopoly is a place which consists of many small tanks and people are depending upon them for water. Even this year this question has been brought into great prominence. There has been a number of small tanks built in olden days which only require water. If there is an off-take, these tanks could be filled during the flood season at least and certainly one crop at least would have been ensured and, Sir, even 50,000 acres could be cultivated. I need not dilate on the great magnitude of the benefit that we would have. Judged from any point of view, the exclusion of Trichinopoly is the most unsatisfactory part of it in so far as the possibilities are concerned. Our legal rights have been violated. We have been crying for water and our cries have been in vain. We are prepared to pay any rate that may be imposed by the Government."

* Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"In 1924 when the Mettur scheme was about to be introduced in this Council, it was said that it would be for the benefit of the landlords of Trichinopoly, Salem and Coimbatore districts. The hon. the Law Member appointed a committee in the interests of the ryots and wanted to give an equitable distribution for the benefit of

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our district also. The committee met several times during the last three years and recommended 2,000 acres for Coimbatore and 5,000 acres for Trichinopoly for extra irrigation. The Chief Engineer admitted that there are no engineering difficulties in the case of Trichinopoly as in the case of Salem and Coimbatore. But the recommendations were thrown out on the ground that a higher rate of interest was necessary if the scheme was given effect to. If that were so, the scheme should have been again placed before the Committee before the Government passed final orders. This the Government has not done. There is another thing with regard to the irrigation of the Pattukkottai taluk in the Tanjore taluk. It is stated that it will be helpful in the matter of the reformation of the Kallars. There are as terrible Kallars in the southern portion of the Trichinopoly district and they will also be benefited. There are some other reasons which have not been referred to by the other speakers. As I will have to say these things over again to-morrow, I do not propose to weary the House at present. But I must say this that we are not in a better position now than before."

Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur :—" As one coming from Salem I give my support to this motion moved by my Colleague Mr. Adinarayana Chetttiyar. It is well known that Salem requires irrigational facilities. It will be a great beneficial act to help the population of the district by giving these facilities. The Mettur project can be so built as to serve my district also. As for myself, I have served the Government for the last several years, and I am now in Salem for the last four years. I see the difficulty which Salem is put to. Last year there was not even a drop of water there. So I think Government should do some good to Salem."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" From the reports that were read by my Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar the hon. the Law Member is bound by the undertaking that he gave at the time when he projected the scheme. I think that but for the undertaking that was given by the hon. the Law Member this House would not have been in a mood to accept the Mettur project. Now having once given a promise and having included the districts of Coimbatore and Salem, I do not see there is any point in the hon. the Law Member or the Government going back upon their words.

" The other point that seems to stand in the way of the Government is that the sanction of the Secretary of State should be required. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: 'Not necessary for this.') I mean for any further alignment. I do not see any point in the Government taking shelter under such a plea of sanction from the Secretary of State. As for the district of Tanjore, it is already very rich. It does not seem to be really requiring so much water as the other districts of Coimbatore and Salem. There is hardly any irrigation work in Salem or even in Coimbatore. After all, the request that has been made by my hon. Friend from Coimbatore is a re-alignment for an additional 20 or 25 thousand acres. I do not see why there should be any difficulty for the Government to sanction this re-alignment, and especially so when the people of both the districts have been prepared and have accepted to pay Rs. 27 and Rs. 29 as water-rate per acre. Further, the monetary compensation that seems to have been paid to the people, namely to two lakhs of people whose lands have been acquired for the Mettur project, will not be an adequate return for the grievance they are now suffering from, viz., want of water or irrigation facilities. Any amount of

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money compensation will never be adequate for the people whose lands have been taken away for the Mettur project. It might be that the hon. the Law Member may say that there are other schemes that would apply to Coimbatore and Salem. Other schemes there may be. But when a request is made and when people are agreed to pay the enhanced rates, I should think that Government should be reasonable enough to accept and make the alignment required by the people of those two districts, namely, Salem and Coimbatore. The Government Order that has been published seems to be a thing which has been done without taking this House into confidence. The Committee would have been justified if it had taken this House into confidence and then got the Government Order published. The scheme of the Mettur project is already committed to the districts of Salem and Coimbatore."

* Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"The hon. Member says that the Committee is not justified. I may say the papers were not sent to the members of the Committee itself. Therefore the Committee is not to be blamed."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"I thank the hon. Member. I take the Government itself to task for not taking this House into their confidence before they published the recent Government Order which has been referred to by my hon. Friend. Now, at last, even the Committee itself does not seem to have been taken into confidence by the Government. Yesterday, when a token amount of Rs. 100 was asked for, this House in the first instance seemed inclined to refuse to grant it on the ground that this House has not been taken into confidence before the whole scheme was formulated. Afterwards, it was certainly granted when things were made clear. On the whole, I should think the Government having committed itself once it cannot go back. It stands to reason that the Government should make this alignment which those two districts of Salem and Coimbatore require."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, many of the speeches and not least noticeably the speech of the last hon. Member who spoke seem to have been conceived in a misunderstanding firstly of the idea underlying the project and secondly of certain statements of mine to which advertance has been made. In the first place, with your permission, Mr. President, let me repeat what I have said more than once on the floor of this House, namely, that the Mettur project has not been projected or initiated mainly or specifically for the purpose of the increase by 201 thousand acres of the irrigation facilities in the Tanjore district. Let me repeat and repeat with all the emphasis at my command that the main object, I had almost said the sole object, which animated those responsible for the inauguration of the Mettur project was the conservation and the preservation of the supplies to the great delta, to those 1,038,000 acres commanded by the present system and the object of the Mettur scheme was firstly and in an effective fashion to secure and improve the water-supply to the existing area including in those 1 million and 38 thousand acres the French territories. That was the first object of the Mettur scheme. The idea is that by impounding the waters of the Cauvery in a reservoir at a particular place you are going to make adequate and ensure the supply to those million and odd acres which form no inconsiderable portion of the irrigated area of this Presidency, and whose value and utility as a centre of food production is beyond cavil or question. That is the first point I desire

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to make. Incidentally and as a consequence of this project, an additional area of 70 thousand acres in the delta will be brought under second crop. Therefore, in the result what has been thought of and what will, I trust, be achieved will be the conservation of the existing water-supply by safeguarding and making more certain and less precarious the supply of water to those 1 million and 38 thousand acres and the bringing of an additional area of 70 thousand acres in the delta under the scheme. Now, in addition to that, over and above that, it is no doubt a fact that it is comprised in the scheme, it is contemplated as a part of the scheme that 220 thousand acres of existing dry lands in the Tanjore district and 80 thousand acres of existing wet lands now irrigated by unreliable sources of supply will be given water. In the result, therefore, the object of the Mettur scheme as was originally conceived was, let me repeat at the risk of tiring this hon. House, the safeguarding and the ensuring of the supply to over a million acres and the bringing in under cultivation three hundred thousand and odd acres both under wet and dry.

" Now, the estimated income from this scheme as a result of the expenditure of the total of Rs. 612 lakhs, was Rs. 46·64 lakhs, and from the very beginning it was understood that the water-rates were to be at Rs. 15 for first crop and Rs. 7–8–0 for second crop in the new areas, thus giving a return of a little over 7 per cent. Now, much of the argument that has taken place to-day has ignored these two basic or underlying factors of the scheme. But it is my duty in deference to the animated, and if you will permit me to use the expression, the very rhetorical and eloquent words of my hon Friend from Coimbatore to deal with three points that he made. In the first place, he charged me with seduction, or with misrepresentation. Let me take him through the proceedings of the Council. Coming before this Council for a grant in regard to the scheme and asking the permission of this House to start the scheme on its way, I pointed out what were the main features of the scheme. I endeavoured to show at the same time that it was proposed in deference to opinion naturally emerging from the various other districts to investigate the possibility of aligning channels subject to the original scheme not being materially interfered with so as to benefit those areas. To that undertaking I have adhered, and I say I still adhere. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: 'Hear, hear.') Our difficulties, which I shall endeavour to show if time permits, are both engineering and practical, and if I was satisfied, and I go further and say this, if I or any Member of the Government, or any Member of the House, was satisfied that the actual, practical, financial and engineering difficulty can be surmounted and if with the surmounting of those difficulties you can benefit other areas over and above the Tanjore areas, no one would grudge either for Salem, Coimbatore, or Trichinopoly, the bringing in of other lands under cultivation in those localities. Let me say this: over 300 thousand acres are likely to be newly irrigated in Tanjore under the Mettur scheme. If, for instance, it was possible from the engineering and practical point of view to give up say 100 or 50 thousand acres out of that 300 thousand acres for other districts, I do not think that the ryots of Tanjore would grumble or gainsay, nor would the Government be against it The point I am anxious to make is this: namely that this was the spirit with which the Government approached the problem, that was the spirit of the undertaking that was given, and let me at the cost of repetition repeat that undertaking in those words in which that

undertaking was given. I said, 'If non-official opinion has to be consulted and taken into consideration, I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that I am perfectly willing, as soon as the meeting of this Legislative Council is over, to constitute a committee composed of the representatives of the districts affected, which are after all only Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Salem and Coimbatore, and I shall add to that, the Chief Engineer, and I will sit with that committee to consider this matter. I give that undertaking to-day. But let us not postpone the main topic. Let us not delay the submission of the estimates to the Government of India. I assure you, and I have behind me the authority of the Chief Engineer for this purpose, that it is open to us, with the advice of that committee, to alter the alignments so as to make provision for a better or a more equitable distribution of water, or what may be called the alteration of the area to be irrigated. That is a matter quite within the competence of this Government.' Let me put a little more emphasis on that particular sentence, 'it is open to us, with the advice of that committee, to alter the alignments so as to make provision for a better or a more equitable distribution of water, or what may be called the alteration of the area to be irrigated.' That undertaking I gave in 1924, and from that undertaking I have not departed, nor has the Government diverged. If it is open to us to surmount and get beyond those difficulties, which I shall place before the House to-day, that undertaking will be carried out and I shall place the difficulties before the House immediately.

"Now, Sir, before I proceed to deal with the actual difficulties which confront the Government, let me deal with one or two aspects of the matter which have been referred to by the hon. Member from Coimbatore in his enthusiastic, if I may say so, in his over-enthusiastic speech (laughter). Now, he adverted in accents characterised both by energy and vehemence that 200 thousand people were to be rendered homeless, and 'is it too much to ask', he went on to say, 'that 20 or 25 thousand acres should not be set apart for the benefit of those people' If that is so, it will be an easy argument for me to answer. You cannot satisfy 200 thousand people by giving 20 thousand acres for cultivation, I shall not adopt that debating point. I shall give certain facts which I think will demonstrate to my hon. and learned Friend that he has wholly overshot the mark in this matter.

4-30 p.m. "The area submerged in Salem by the Mettur Reservoir is 7,409 acres and the area submerged in Coimbatore is 12,122 acres, or a total of 19,531 acres, or 30 square miles roughly. The number of families that would be deprived of houses is 2,140, and for them lands in exchange will be provided. The population in the area per square mile is 253 in the Bhavani taluk and 420 in the Omalur taluk. The total population affected is 5,000 in Salem and another 5,000 in Coimbatore. The population of the whole of the Bhavani taluk is 181,212. These are the figures that have been furnished to me. It may be that these figures furnished in haste are inaccurate and liable to revision or correction. If so, no one will be more glad than myself to accept and act upon such revision or correction. But it is a very very far cry indeed, from the total number of houses of 2,140 and the total population of about 10,000, to say that 21,000 people are to be driven homeless, and the cries of these men have reached the ears of my hon. Friend who, I know, is sympathetic and is anxious to deal fairly by his constituency."

* Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"I mentioned all that as the population of both the districts are involved."

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* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, the next point that was made was that it was the necessities of the case that demanded some compensation and I think one hon. Member said that simple morality demanded that they should be compensated. If as a matter of fact the problem is considered from the widest and largest point of view, if it is remembered that *Salus populi suprema lex*, the welfare of the people at large is the foremost law, if it is remembered that this increase in the food production of this Presidency is not a matter which individually or narrowly benefits only the district of Tanjore or taluks specifically affected, if it means also that the cultivation of one million acres is more safeguarded, if it means at the same time that 221,000 acres more will produce rice and other food products, which now produce practically nothing, is it not a satisfactory feature, so far as this Presidency is concerned, and will my hon. Friend remember that the increase in the food production in any corner of the Presidency is in reality to the benefit of the Presidency at large ?

" It will not be possible to deal more fully with the tangled problem of the starvation of any particular locality. But I am asking my hon. Friend : ' Is he going to cavil at this project ? Is he going to say that this project is to go on provided that his interests are not jeopardised ? Is he going to say that the increase of production in consequence of bringing into cultivation all those territories is not a sufficient compensation ' ? "

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I am saying that the production of food will be the same in Bhavani or Tanjore, and that it will not be very high. "

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" My argument is : Is it a business proposition ? I am quite alive to arguments which set aside business aspects. But the Government cannot spend six crores of rupees and be paying interest to the Government of India from whom they are going to borrow the money, without looking to the pounds, shillings, pence, or rupees, annas, pies argument, to which Mr. Koti Reddi alluded. That aspect also has to be borne in mind.

" Let me turn at once to another aspect. My hon. Friends from Salem adverted to the reports of the Committee. This committee was appointed in pursuance of the undertaking I gave at the meeting of the Legislative Council to which I have referred. At the first meeting of the Committee, let me say that the question of irrigating areas in Salem was referred to and it was pointed out that the idea would have to be dropped as the soil was not suitable and the cost prohibitive. I would not be fair to the hon. Members from Salem if I omitted to add that, at a later meeting, a different procedure was adopted. Let me remind them also of what happened at the first meeting when the question of irrigating areas in Trichinopoly was raised. It was contemplated in connexion with the Kattalai bed regulator that an improved scheme should provide adequately for the south of the Trichinopoly district. Reference has been made not only now but on prior occasions to the idea that Tanjore cannot pay to Government the expected rates, and somebody also said that so long as a certain number of landholders in a particular locality in Tanjore prospered, it did not matter to Government what happened to others ; it does not matter whether Tanjore benefits or Trichinopoly or Coimbatore. The question is which is the area which consistently with professional advice will most satisfactorily be served by this project ; if so, let

us serve it. That is our only motive, the only object animating the actions of Government. Now, Sir, let me refer to certain figures. In regard to what is called Scheme B in Bhavani, that was given up and I do not propose to deal with it. So far as Scheme A is concerned (I am dealing with the Coimbatore district), the proposal is to excavate a connecting channel."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" On a point of order. The hon. the Law Member is reading from a document that is not supplied to us. Therefore it is a sealed book."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" If it is a sealed book, it is a sealed book on account of the enthusiasm of my hon. Friend from Coimbatore."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I am to be blamed for everything. I may say that the Government Order was published."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I shall dilate on the reasons ; the Government were not aware . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I wish to know whether the paper was placed on the table or published."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" It was placed on the Editors' Table, but not circulated."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Since the paper was not supplied to the Members, it should not be quoted from."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Then I am afraid my work will be rendered very simple. As objection has been taken to my reading from the paper, it is not possible for me to do more than say this, that we have been advised by our experts that, so far as Salem is concerned, the engineering difficulties make the extension to Salem absolutely impracticable. They say that the land is of such an undulating character that terracing would have to be adopted in order that the irrigation project might be continued through the Salem district."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask whether it is not at all possible to benefit at least the land which is adjoining the canal to be formed ? "

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The levels are such that we are advised that it is not possible to extend it to Salem district except to very small portions which would really not come into the effective calculation."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Have any calculations been made about the actual area which even according to the figures of the hon. the Law Member can be benefited by the process ? "

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" So far as this matter is concerned, as the connected papers and the Government Order are not in the hands of the Members, I undertake to place them on the table almost immediately. We printed only six copies and we were not aware that the adjournment motion was coming on, and these six copies were placed on the table of the House and six Members of this House are in possession of these copies and the connected papers including the correspondence and calculations of the engineers and experts on these matters. If I may say so respectfully, the hon. the President's ruling follows the precedents in these matters,

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namely, that I cannot refer to any documents which are not circulated to the hon. Members of this House and which have not been placed on the table—not to a small extent as in the present case, but so as to be available to all Members of the House. Therefore it is impossible for me to refer to them but, at the same time, I realize it would be inconvenient to the hon. Members if I proceed to quote from them. But I may summarise in this wise. I may say that, so far as Trichinopoly is concerned, the question is largely one of water-rate, it does not raise difficulties from an engineering point of view which have been pointed out in regard to other districts. But there is one more aspect with regard to extension of irrigation to Trichinopoly. Trichinopoly is already fairly well served and the Kattalai scheme is a scheme which will . . ."

* Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI :—"I object, it is not fairly well served."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"If the physiognomical argument is allowed in the serious debates of the House, I say, from the very questioning looks of my hon. Friend, Mr. Koti Reddi, and other Members, that they supply a sufficient answer to the question propounded by the hon. Member from Trichinopoly. I think I shall be correct in saying—and have the House with me when I repeat—that Trichinopoly is not so badly served as many other districts, and we have already initiated the Kattalai scheme, which, so far as the southern portion of the district is concerned, will be of great benefit to Trichinopoly. So far as Coimbatore is concerned, our calculations come to this: that 27 to 28 rupees by way of water-rate will have to be levied in order to make this project a paying project. So far as this is concerned, we have the assurance of the hon. Member from Coimbatore that the people in that locality are only too anxious to pay this Rs. 27 or Rs. 28."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"As a matter of explanation, it is not the assurance of a single member but of all the representatives of the district that we are prepared to pay that rate and the Government Order contains a statement to that effect."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I see at the same time that my hon. Friend has permitted himself another remark that notwithstanding the unanimous statement of the three Members from Tanjore that they would be inclined to pay Rs. 15 for the first crop and Rs. 7-8-0 for the second crop . . ."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Where is it recorded ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It is recorded in a number of places ; it was definitely stated in the Committee, and one Member at least will bear me out. Notwithstanding this assurance, if it was open to another Member from another district to get up and say 'I greatly doubt if Tanjore will do so, I have received petitions that they will not do so when the channels are laid and that there will be difficulty in paying money,' then the same thing will be permissible to some other hon. Member to say that notwithstanding the assurance of the hon. Member who enjoys in a singular degree the confidence of his constituency . . ."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I was present at a number of meetings of these ryots at which they represented that they would pay, and they offered to give an undertaking to see that the Government ran no risk."

* The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" My hon. Friend with his well-known traditions and practice of business-like proceedings has made a proposition which will undoubtedly be borne in mind by Government, viz., that the ryots of Coimbatore are perfectly willing to pay this Rs. 27 or Rs. 28, whichever may be the correct figure arrived at, and he invites the Government to consider whether, if such an undertaking is given and if such an undertaking can be implemented by agreements, the Government would consider the possibility of extension of the project to Coimbatore. That matter will be deliberated upon by the Government and we shall await further consideration on that matter."

* Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" What about Salem ? "

* The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" At the risk of a little levity, let me repeat what was once said by an hon. Judge before whom I had the privilege of practising. He said that on a particular day people were pining to pay. We have that spectacle here because they want the Mettur project to go into their districts.

4-45 p.m. " We have been advised that the engineering difficulties and the difficulties confronting us in regard to the financial aspects of the matter are such that extension to Coimbatore and Salem are impracticable. The papers relating to these will be placed on the table of the House and if, after that, hon. Members of the House, in the course of the budget discussion, want to raise this question further, they will, of course, have full opportunity to do so. I shall bear in mind what has fallen from my hon. Friends from Salem and Coimbatore and Trichinopoly. I had intended to indicate the reasons why we were unable to be more definite than we were and the reasons which have prompted the Government. Unfortunately I am precluded from saying more owing to the fact that the Government Order has not been placed on the table of the House."

* Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar :—" I believe I cannot command a tenth of the enthusiasm or vigour of Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar or any of his Colleagues from Coimbatore who sat with him on the committee and who had the cause of Salem and Coimbatore in their hearts. Probably many of the hon. Members of this House will not feel so enthusiastic over the matter if they are told a little bit of the previous history of this Mettur scheme. I need not repeat the old history, but I may tell hon. Members that this matter has been under the contemplation of the Government for over half a century and that it was only in 1924 it had a chance of materialising and we are beginning the work. From the year 1880 or 1890 this has been under the contemplation of the Government and ever since that time the object of the Government was to improve the irrigation facilities of the Tanjore district. But all the time the cause and the rights of the Coimbatore, Salem and Trichinopoly districts were not absent from the minds of the people in charge of it and from 1880 this question of Salem was investigated not once nor twice but half-a-dozen times. In the year 1908 this matter was fully gone into and was given up as impracticable as serving neither the welfare of the Salem, Coimbatore or Trichinopoly people. Finally this scheme was sent up. The scheme as regards Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly was given up not because Tanjore was not willing to give them help, not because Government was not willing to help them, but because God was not willing to favour Salem, etc. The physical features of Salem and Coimbatore are such that neither the

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Government nor even Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar, to whom my hon. Friend referred, could not help them. As God will not help them, this water could not be taken to them in spite of the engineering feats attempted already and may be attempted even hereafter.

" This committee was formed in the year 1924 and its chief work ever since 1925 was the investigation of the question whether it was possible to benefit Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly. At one meeting which was held principally for the purpose of investigating whether it was possible to provide for the irrigation of certain areas in Salem and Coimbatore this question was fully gone into. And, I may tell hon. Members that every member of the committee was disposed to give them as much facilities for irrigation as possible, if it was possible to give them any at all. Then the hon. Member from Coimbatore said that the ryots in that district were prepared to pay Rs. 27 and wanted water for 30,000 acres. I was willing to give it. I stick to it and do not want to go behind it. I say all my good wishes or my pious hopes did not help Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar or his people. (Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar: 'The decision of the committee was to give us 20,000 acres'.) Very much more than half-a-dozen meetings as regards this matter were held. Although this Government Order and the connected papers are taboo if they are read by the hon. the Law Member because they have not been circulated to Members of the House, it is open to any private member to read them and I wish to draw attention to some of the proceedings of the committee and the orders passed on them. At the very first meeting, the question of irrigating the areas in Salem was referred to, and it was pointed out that the idea would have to be dropped as the soil was not really suitable and the cost would be prohibitive. The question of irrigation areas in Trichinopoly was also raised, and it was pointed out that the works contemplated in connexion with the Kattalai Bed Regulator and Improvement Scheme should provide adequately for the south of the Trichinopoly district. I do not think I shall tire the patience of this House by going into everything in the report. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: 'What about Coimbatore?') The committee directed the Engineer to go into the possibility of irrigating Salem and Coimbatore even though Salem was negatived at the first meeting. The engineer investigated the matter as regards the East and West Channels of Salem and placed before the committee the financial aspects of the scheme remarking that it was possible to carry out the scheme as a financial proposition. The hon. Member for Coimbatore said that he was willing to pay the necessary higher rate. Even then, as more than one engineer had reported, it was found impossible to carry out the project as a practical scheme. In spite of the endeavours of the committee and its willingness to help these people it was not possible to help them owing to engineering difficulties.

" At the meeting held on the 4th September, after all the labours of the engineers, it was again found necessary at the instigation of my friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar to send the proposal back again to the engineer. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: 'You are wrong. On the 4th it was not decided.') I am reading from the very end of the Government Order.

'The committee decided to recommend the inclusion of scheme* (a) in lieu of an equivalent area in Tanjore. The Coimbatore representatives say that the ryots will pay Rs. 27 per acre. The committee agree to drop scheme* (b). 2. *Kattalai scheme.* It was decided that the

Chief Engineer should be asked to ascertain the water-rate payable for a possible extension of 50,000 acres in Trichinopoly district in lieu of a corresponding extent in Tanjore, and the effect it would have on the rates fixed for Tanjore. 3. *Extension to Salem district*. It was also decided that the Chief Engineer should be asked to quote rates for a channel to take off from the Mettur dam and provide for irrigation in Salem district and to report the effect that would have on the rates fixed for the areas at present intended for new irrigation.'

"So, in spite of all the previous proceedings, the committee yet thought that Salem and Coimbatore might be helped and after that the whole question was again gone into. A reference to the order and the engineer's report accompanying it will clearly show that it is not a practical proposition :

'Apart from the question of water-rate, there are several engineering difficulties in the working of the east (extension to Salem district) and west side scheme (*a*) channels. These are described in paragraph 11 of Sir John Benton's remarks on page 161 of volume I of the Cauvery Reservoir Project papers. The land is stated to be poor in quality. The fall in the country, viz., 1 in 155 may require terracing, and a lot of preliminary spade work will be necessary before the land is made fit for cultivation.'

"The Government may take water, but it is not the Government that is going to make the land irrigable. That has to be done by the ryot. The Government should take that also into consideration. This is what they say :

'The growth of cultivation will be very slow and the duty of water much less than in the delta. Besides, there are difficulties in the design, alignment and execution of the upper channels.'

* Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" My hon. Friend is reading the Engineer's note and not the Government Order."

* Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar :—" The Engineer knows it, and not the Government sitting here. The report goes on to say :

"Many cross drainages, big and small, should be passed over. Maintenance of these channels will also be costlier. Extension in the Trichinopoly district (Kattalai scheme) has less objections, but such extension, if limited to say 13 or 14 thousand acres (about a third of the present irrigation under the Kattalai right bank canal) under the Kattalai canal can be effected by the improvement of duty under it. In this case it will not be necessary to deduct this extent from the 301,000 acres fixed for the Tanjore delta under the Mettur Reservoir with reference to clause (xii) paragraph 10 of the Mysore agreement printed as accompaniment to G.O. No. 228 I., dated 3rd July 1924.'

"In consideration of the facts stated above, I recommend that all the three schemes referred to, viz., scheme (*a*), Kattalai scheme and extension to the Salem district be abandoned. The extension to about 13 or 14 thousand acres under the Kattalai canal by improvement of duty under it, referred to in the concluding portion of paragraph 7 above, may be considered later on.'

"This is the Engineer's report. And the Government referred to the proceedings and said that this question of irrigating and extending water to these three districts from the Mettur scheme might be dropped. I am asking whether the hon. Member Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar now proposes that this question which has till now been investigated by probably half a dozen committees and half a dozen engineers should be investigated again by another 7th committee and a 7th engineer or that an expert should be brought from other countries for the purpose of investigating this. This is a matter which has been engaging the attention of scores of irrigation experts. Sir Benton has written that it is impracticable. But my hon. Friend says: 'We have lost some lands and we are suffering and we must have some water.' I entirely sympathise with him, but the engineering experts say that it is not possible to irrigate these areas with the water of the Mettur scheme. If they say so, what can be done? A further investigation will be absolutely useless. It will only have the effect of delaying the construction of this scheme by one or two years. If these channels are to be dug and

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alignments have to be made, it is no use delaying them. The effect of any delay will be the interest on capital will accumulate and the people of Tanjore will be called upon to pay higher rates to cover the additional interest. These are practical considerations which ought to weigh with hon. Members of the House.

" Again, Sir, we have been told that a reduction of 100,000 acres from the 300,000 acres in the Tanjore district will not seriously affect the landholders in the Tanjore district. That is a proposition to which I must demur. I say that it affects the people of Tanjore in two ways. The first is, we lose 100,000 acres and the second and the more important is this: the owner of every piece of land in Tanjore will be affected if more water is drawn up at the head. They forget that the physical features of the country require that there should be more water in the Cauvery than is actually required for the purpose of cultivation. Supposing the bed of the river is lower than the land, then some water will have to go to waste and therefore more water than is required for the land will have to be let into the channel. If water that is required for 100,000 acres is taken at the head, there will be a proportionate reduction of one foot or two feet in the level of the water running in the Cauvery, and therefore it will not be possible to irrigate the lands on both sides of the river. It is a fallacy to imagine that if we irrigate 100,000 acres in Coimbatore, it would be enough if we take away water necessary to irrigate 100,000 acres in the Tanjore district. It will affect a million acres in the Tanjore district. Does my hon. Friend suggest that for the problematical addition of 20,000 acres in the Coimbatore district we should risk 100,000 acres in the Tanjore district? Certainly if he says that his proposition is that the whole interest of the Tanjore district should be jeopardised for the probable—may, possible—advantage of the Coimbatore district, then I say it does not deserve any consideration."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is now 5 p.m. The debate automatically closes."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 26th January 1927.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU Garu) in the chair.

PRESENT:

Ramaswami Ayyar, The hon. Sir C. P.
Marjoribanks, The hon. Mr. N. E.
Usman Sahib Bahadur, The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Moir, The hon. Mr. T. E.
Subbarayan, The hon. Dr. P.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, The hon. Mr. A.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N.
Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur.
Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur.
Abdul Hye Sahib Bahadur, K.
Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur S. K.
Abdul Wahab Sahib Bahadur, Munshi.
Adinarayana Chettiyar, Mr. T.
Anjaneyulu, Mr. P.
Appavu Chettiyar, Mr. C. D.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.
Arpudaswami Udayar, Mr. S.
Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu, Mr. P.
Bheemayya, Mr. J.
Biswanath Das Mahasayo, Sriman.
Boag, Mr. G. T.
Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar, Mr. T. K.
Congreve, Mr. C. R. T.
Cotterell, Mr. C. B.
Davis, Mr. J. A.
Dorai Raja, Mr. S.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Sahib S.
Ethirajulu Nayudu, Diwan Bahadur P. C.
Gangadhara Siva, Mr. M. V.
Gopala Menon, Mr. C.
Govindaraja Mudaliyar, Mr. C. S.
Guruswami, Rao Sahib L. C.
Hall, Mr. J. F.
Hampayya, Rai Sahib M.
Harisarvottama Rao, Mr. G.
John, Mr. V. Ch.
Kaleswara Rao, Mr. A.
Kameswara Rao Nayudu, Mr. V.
Karant, Mr. K. R.
Kenneth Kay, Mr.
Khadir Mohidin Sahib Bahadur, Muhammad.
Koti Reddi, Mr. K.
Krishnan, Mr. K.
Krishnan Nayar, Diwan Bahadur M.
Krishnaswami Nayakar, Mr. K.
Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri Bahadur Varu.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.
Kuppuswami, Mr. J.
MacDougall, Sir Alexander.
Madhavan Nayar, Mr. K.
Mallayya, Mr. B. S.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S. Muhammad.
Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, T. M.
Muniswami Nayudu, Rao Bahadur B.
Muniswami Pillai, Mr. V. I.
Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara, Mr.
Muthayya Mudaliyar, Mr. S.
Muthulakshmi Ammal, Dr. (Mrs.).
Mutharanga Mudaliyar, Mr. C. N.
Nagan Gowda, Mr. R.
Nanjappah Bahadur, M.V.O., Subadar-Major S. A.
Narayana Raju, Mr. D.
Narayana Rao, Mr. Mothay.
Narayanan Chettiyar, Mr. Al. Ar.
Narayanan Nambudripad, Rao Bahadur O. M.
Narayanaswami Pillai, Mr. T. M.
Obi Reddi, Mr. C.
Pandrang Row, Mr. V.
Parasurama Rao Pantulu, Mr. A.
Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Patro, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Premayya, Mr. G.
Raja of Jeypore.
Raja of Panagal.
Raja of Ramnad.
Rajan, Mr. P. T.
Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. K.
Ramachandra Reddi, Mr. B.
Ramanath Goenka, Mr.
Ramasomayajulu, Mr. C.
Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. U.
Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C. S.
Sahajanandam Swami, Mr. A. S.
Saldanha, Mr. J. A.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Sarabha Reddi, Mr. K.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Mahmud.
Seturatnam Ayyar, Mr. M. R.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Sitarama Reddi, Rao Bahadur K.
Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Siva Rao, Mr. P.
Slater, Mr. S. H.
Smith, Mr. J. Mackenzie.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. R.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.

PRESENT—*cont.*

Srinivasan, Rao Sahib R.
Subrahmanya Moopanar, Mr. S.
Subrahmanya Pillai, Mr. Chavadi K.
Sundaramurti Pillai, Rao Sahib P. V. S.
Swami, Mr. K. V. R.
Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur, Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib.
Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Syed.
Thomas, Daniel, Mr.
Tulasiram, Mr. L. K.
Tyler, Mr. H. H. F. M.
Uppi Sahib Bahadur, Mr. K.
Venkatapati Raju, Mr. P. C.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
Venkatarama Sastri, Mr. T. R.
Venkataramana Ayyangar, Mr. C. V.
Venkatarangam Nayudu, Mr. C.
Venkataratnam, Mr. B.
Venkiah, Mr. S.
Wood, Mr. C. E.
Zamindar of Gollapalli.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram.
Zamindar of Seithur.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15 *on the 4th December* 1924.

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a Member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplementary questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Landlord and Tenant

Introduction of a Tenancy Bill for Malabar.

* 51 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government intend introducing a Tenancy Bill for Malabar;

(*b*) the approximate date on which it will be introduced; and

(*c*) whether the Bill contains a provision for grant of fixity of tenure to tenants?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*c*) The examination referred to in the concluding portion of the Press Communiqué dated the 1st November 1926 has not yet been undertaken and the Government are not now in a position to state what shape their proposals will take.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The answer to this question is ' The examination referred to in the concluding portion of the Press Communiqué dated the 1st November 1926 has not yet been undertaken '. May I know from my hon. Friend, the Law Member, when the Government propose to undertake such an examination?"

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The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Some time after the budget meeting."

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" May I know what period of time is meant by Government by the word 'promptly' which is used in my Friend's note, dated the 9th January 1926, wherein they state that they would examine the question 'promptly'. May I know what approximate time is meant by their word 'promptly'?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Which note? Is it the note dated 9th January 1926 which my hon. Friend was referring to?"

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Yes, quite right."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The communiqué was dated 1st November 1926. I take it that my hon. Friend means January 1927."

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" No, I mean what I say. What I meant was, what was the period of time which was meant by the Government in the word 'promptly' which was used by my hon. Friend in his note, dated 9th January 1926?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" After the 9th January 1926 many things have happened. We must now proceed on the basis of the communiqué and His Excellency the Governor's speech. I take it that the promptness has to be calculated with reference to these two dates."

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" No, Sir. My question has not been answered. In that communiqué my hon. Friend, the Law Member, says 'that this identical question will be examined by the Government promptly'. I want to know what period of time is indicated by the Government in that word 'promptly'?"

The hon Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I have no answer to give."

Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar :—" May I know if the Government is prepared to give interim protection to the tenants of Malabar against arbitrary evictions and melcharths until a legislation is introduced? Is there any such proposal under the consideration of the Government?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government."

Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar :—" Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is because after the rebellion of 1921 the people of Malabar have been so emasculated and there is no possibility of any riot agrarian or otherwise in that part of the country in the immediate future that the Government take their own time to bring in legislative proposals?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" No, Sir."

Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar :—" Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the people of Malabar can believe that at any time there will be a legislative proposal brought forward by the Government for solving their tenancy problem?"

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The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"That is a metaphysical question which I cannot answer."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"As against a metaphysical question which the hon. the Law Member says he is not able to answer, I will put a physical question which he will be able to answer. The answer says 'The Government are not now in a position to state what shape their proposals will take'. May I ask whether according to the present intentions of the Government they are going to bring a Bill before this House with regard to the Malabar tenancy problem, or whether their mind is so blank as not even able to answer a question as to whether their proposals will take legislative form?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Obviously proposals of the Government with regard to matters of legislation will take legislative form."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"It is a clever answer, but it is not an answer to my question. My question is whether this Government as represented by the hon. the Law Member has any intention now of introducing at such time as may be convenient to them any legislative proposals to deal with the Malabar tenancy question. The answer says 'The Government are not now in a position to state what shape their proposals will take'. I ask whether the Government are in a position to state whether their proposals will take any legislative shape before this Council."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"The present idea of the Government is to introduce legislation as soon as possible. The intentions of the Government have to a certain extent been indicated in the amendments that were tabled on behalf of the Government during the discussion of the Malabar Tenancy Bill. These will be certainly considered with reference to the formulation of proposals by the Government. Whether those proposals which Government hope to introduce will be confined to them or will be beyond them is within the scope of examination which has been referred to in the answer."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"With reference to clause (*b*) of the question, may I ask if the hon. the Law Member is in a position to give us some indication of the approximate time when the Government hope to be in a position to place before this House their proposals in a legislative form?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"We shall have some kind of legislative proposals ready and when the Legislative Council meets after the budget session in July or August they will be placed before the House."

State Prisoners

Release of M. P. Narayana Menon.

*52 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government intend giving effect to the resolution of the Legislative Council recommending the release of M. P. Narayana Menon?

A.—The Government, as at present advised, do not propose to release M. P. Narayana Menon.

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Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" The answer given to this question is ' The Government as at present advised do not propose to release Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon '. May I know whether the Government have any intention of giving effect now or in future to the repeated wishes expressed regarding this matter by this House ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The position as regards Mr. Narayana Menon is this : There is a judgment of the hon. the Judges of the High Court which the Government are not prepared to assume to be wrong. The question of the release of Mr. Narayana Menon is dependent upon conditions which to a certain extent have been indicated to Mr. Narayana Menon himself. At the present moment and under present conditions, the Government do not propose to release Mr. Narayana Menon."

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" My question was whether the Government had any intention of giving effect to the wishes regarding this matter repeatedly expressed by this House, now or at any future time."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I cannot pledge the Government to any future time. At present, however anxious the Government are to meet the wishes of the Legislative Council, it will be remembered that only as a matter of clemency and not as a matter of overriding the judgment of the High Court the Government said that the expressed wishes of this House would be considered. That question of the exercise of clemency has been considered by the Government and under present conditions and as matters stand at present they do not propose to move in the matter."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I ask what those present conditions are, and the circumstances under which the Government feel they cannot move in the matter of releasing Mr. Narayana Menon ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I may say, Sir, that, as a result of certain discussions that took place and certain letters which were addressed to the Government, the possibility of Mr. Narayana Menon's release was considered on certain conditions which the Government took as the basis of procedure if he were to be released. All these matters were considered by the Government and certain conditions were offered to Mr. Narayana Menon and he was asked to give certain undertakings which he was not prepared to do. In these circumstances, nothing could be done."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I know what were the conditions which were offered to Mr. Narayana Menon ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The Government cannot consider that question."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know the reason why that question cannot be considered, unless it be that the conditions were so unreasonable that Government dare not reveal those conditions to the House ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" It is not a question of unreasonableness. These are matters which the Government think should not be discussed in the public interests on the floor of this House."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" The question is not between Mr. Narayana Menon and Government alone. My hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar asked the Government to cite the reasons why they did not feel called upon to carry out the unanimous wishes of this House. I am therefore asking the hon. the Law Member to give this House roughly the nature of the conditions which they wanted to exact of Mr. Narayana Menon, before they considered the question of his release. I want that question answered. In order that we may be in a position to judge of the response which the country and this House may make to the appeal of His Excellency the Governor for our marching together on the common road to our goal, may I ask whether the Government are making a gesture for the common road, so far as the release of Mr. Narayana Menon is concerned? Almost every section of the House has pronounced its opinion that Mr. Narayana Menon was innocent and he should be immediately released. Do the Government consider that he is not innocent, and is it the kind of response they should make to the wishes of the representatives of the people, if they really want co-operation from us?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" In answer, let me say at once that I have heard from the hon. Member for the University that the House unanimously considers that Mr. Narayana Menon was innocent and that he ought to be released. The Government have gone into the records of this case with the utmost desire to fall in with the wishes of the Legislative Council, if possible, and they are unable to come to the conclusion that the opinion expressed by the Judge Mr. Pakenham Walsh and by the appellate bench of the High Court is erroneous. The question therefore resolved itself into one of exercising clemency and the Government therefore asked Mr. Narayana Menon to give certain undertakings which he was not prepared to do. It is not a question of innocence as we cannot go behind the judgment."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" Apart from going through the judgment may I ask the Government whether any independent enquiry was conducted into the guilt of Mr. Narayana Menon in regard to this matter?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" From the elaborate evidence that was given in that case—the judgment is there—it was thought that no independent enquiry should be initiated. Nor is it the intention of the Government to do so."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" Are the Government aware that very respectable gentlemen from Malabar and a very large number of respectable people from outside Malabar also have sent in memorial to the Government that Mr. Narayana Menon was quite innocent in this case and that mercy should be shown to him?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" These petitions have been perused by the Government."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN SAHIB :—" Will the Government be pleased to state whether they will release Mr. Narayana Menon if he gives an undertaking that he will have nothing to do with politics in future?"

The hon Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" It is impossible for me to answer any such question. If any such condition is put forward Government will no doubt consider it."

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Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN SAHIB :—" Was it one of the terms that were offered to him ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am afraid I cannot answer that question."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government cannot release him by imposing certain conditions on him without taking any undertakings from him ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am afraid I cannot answer that question."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I know from my hon. Friend, the Law Member, what public interest is prejudiced by disclosing on the floor of this House the conditions referred to by my hon. Friend ? As far as I am aware no public interest is at stake."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" It is because that the Government felt that public interests were at stake that they came to this conclusion."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" The Government having agreed to the decision of the High Court and at the same time being willing to show some clemency to Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon provided he accepted certain conditions which the Government offered to him, may I ask the hon. the Law Member whether it will not be right to disclose those conditions so that his friends, if they are so minded, may perhaps persuade Mr. Narayana Menon to accept those conditions ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, I shall bear what has fallen from my hon. Friend in mind ; at present I am unable to give an answer to the question." 11-15 a.m.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Do the Government consider that the conditions in Malabar to-day are so bad or undesirable as they were at the time of the Malabar rebellion when Mr. Narayana Menon was imprisoned ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Not so bad, Sir."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Has there not been a great change for the better, if not a complete reversion of the conditions ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" It is hoped that there has been a great change for the better."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" If so, what danger can there be to Malabar or to the country as a whole if Narayana Menon is released ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" That consideration was also borne in mind when the Government came to their decision."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Apart from the question of clemency or otherwise, may I tell the hon. the Law Member that this House wants Mr. Narayana Menon to be released ? May I therefore ask him to state the reasons to the House, why, apart from the *ex cathedra* statements of the hon. Law Member, the Government cannot release him especially in view of the altered conditions ? May I ask him to state whether he is in a position to tell the House the reasons, the soundness or otherwise of which we will test with our own reason ? "

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The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"One reason is an obvious reason, Sir. I did not desire to start on that particular strain, but I am forced to do so. There are at present a number of persons both Muhammadans and Hindus who have been convicted for exactly the same crime for which Mr. Narayana Menon was convicted. There is no particular reason for releasing Mr. Narayana Menon alone without at the same time releasing other persons probably less culpable than Narayana Menon who according to the evidence at our disposal, were influenced to do certain deeds by persons in the position of Mr. Narayana Menon and are now undergoing long-term imprisonments or transportation for life."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" With reference to the answer of the hon. Member that Narayana Menon should not be treated in a different way from the other prisoners who have been charged with the same offence and sentenced in the same way, may I know whether in respect of any such other person there has been a petition for mercy signed by prominent and responsible men like municipal councillors, taluk board members, district board members, High Court vakils and landlords ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I may say, Sir, that I have not gone into the status of the signatories of these various petitions. I may mention that in many of these cases there has been a long petition signed sometimes by 4,000 or 5,000 people. The status of these persons who have signed the petitions has not been analysed."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask the hon. the Law Member to draw a distinction between the various other persons who have been convicted according to him for similar offences for which Mr. Narayana Menon was convicted, and Mr. Narayana Menon? This House, rightly or wrongly, has considered his case to be of sufficient importance to ask the Government to release him. I ask the hon. the Law Member whether he is going to treat the wishes of this House as if they do not exist for his purpose, or whether he is going to consider this question in the light of the wishes of this House. May I also add that so far as we on this side of the House are concerned, we shall be glad if the Government show magnanimity enough to release all these prisoners ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" It was in deference to the wishes of this House expressed on more than one occasion, it was in deference to the various letters and petitions which came from eminent men like Mr. Andrews and others that this Government considered this matter once more very carefully. It was not with a desire to flout the wishes of this House or slight the intentions of this House in regard to this matter that the Government took the steps to which I referred. It was in spite of the earnest consideration of the matter, influenced as it preponderatingly was by the wishes of the House, that the Government have come to a decision."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—' May I ask the hon. the Law Member—he is a perspicuous speaker—to state categorically the reasons why they do not propose to release him ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, let me pay a tribute to the pertinacity with which the hon. Member has cross-examined me. I have stated already that I am unable to give those reasons."

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Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" May I know whether four European Missionary gentlemen who know Mr. Narayana Menon well and who have been visiting him in the Madras Penitentiary have sent a memorial requesting the Government to release him and also giving an undertaking that they will be responsible for his future conduct ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I know of a letter signed by four Missionary gentlemen which has reached His Excellency the Governor. But as to whether there is an undertaking therein for his future conduct I do not at present recollect. If my hon. Friend vouches for the accuracy of his statement, I take it that it is so."

Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib :—" The hon. the Law Member said that among the prisoners so convicted there were more innocent people than Mr. Narayana Menon . . ."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I only meant that there are persons who are not in a different position as to culpability from Mr. Narayana Menon."

Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib :—" If my memory serves me right, he used the words I referred to."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I could not have used those words ; I have too great a respect for the constituted courts of this country."

Mr. S. Dorai Raja :—" Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state if it is the intention of the Government to release other prisoners also convicted on the same grounds if Mr. Narayana Menon is released ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" There has been a contention in a numerously signed petition that Mr. Narayana Menon should not be released in preference to others."

Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar :—" May I know what that petition is, when it was sent and by whom it was sent ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I think there were a number of petitions ; if the hon. Member repeats his question some other time I shall give him the particulars."

Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar :—" Are the conditions which prevent the Government from releasing Mr. Narayana Menon prevalent in Malabar alone or in the whole of the country ? If they are conditions peculiarly prevalent in Malabar alone, will the Government consider the question of releasing Mr. Narayana Menon on imposing a condition upon him that he should not go to Malabar for a certain number of years ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I shall note this request for action."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" The answer contains the phrase ' as at present advised '. May I ask the hon. the Law Member when they were so advised, and whether the Government propose to take periodic advice and, if so, what is the period ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The expression ' as at present advised ' is generally used as equivalent to ' according to their present intentions '."

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Mr. L. K. Tulasiram :—" Is it a fact that a District Munsif, a trusted servant of the Government, was a witness for the defence ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I am aware of it, Sir. Mr. Kundu Panikkar was the person referred to. He was a class-mate of mine."

Mr. L. K. Tulasiram :—" Is it also a fact that he is still kept in Government service although his evidence has been treated as untrustworthy."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" He is kept in Government service because the judgment does not say anything against his trustworthiness ; it only says that he might be mistaken as to the time of certain occurrences."

Mr. L. K Tulasiram :—" In any other case in Malabar was a District Munsif examined for the defence ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I am not aware, Sir."

Mr. L. K. Tulasiram :—" Were there petitions signed by distinguished persons, such as members of local boards and municipal councils, in the case of other prisoners ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I have not analysed the signatures to these petitions. But I may say that a large number of them have come in almost every case."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" Do Government really believe that if Mr. Narayana Menon is released to-day there will be another Malabar rebellion to-morrow ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" They do not, Sir."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" In the light of this answer will the Government re-examine the question since the political conditions in Malabar are not so bad as to cause a rebellion by his release ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The question put by my hon. Friend will of course have the consideration which all questions put by hon. Members have. But I may say that the release is not refused on the ground that there will be a rebellion in Malabar the moment he is released."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" In one of his answers the hon. the Law Member said that certain conditions were offered to Mr. Narayana Menon if he wanted to be released and that he refused to abide by them, and that the terms of the conditions would not be disclosed to this House. May I ask the hon. the Law Member to reveal them at least to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition so that, if he thinks them reasonable, he may prevail upon Mr. Narayana Menon and ask him to accept them ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" That question will be noted, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I ask whether those conditions contain any political stipulations since the hon. the Law Member refuses to disclose them to this House ? "

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The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The very question contains the answer, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" I cannot understand it, Sir, unless it be that the conditions contain political stipulations."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" When I have declined to disclose the grounds I cannot say what they were like and what they were not like."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" When petitions are sent by distinguished and responsible persons the hon. the Law Member says that he has not analysed the status of the signatories of such petitions. Are we to understand that petitions are treated by the Government in that manner in all such matters ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" No, Sir. An analysis of the status of the various persons who signed the petitions in the other cases was not made. So far as Mr. Narayana Menon is concerned, in a certain petition it was stated in the body of the petition itself that the petition had been signed by so many municipal councillors, district board members, so many vakils and so on. An analysis has not been attempted in the case of the other petitions. May I assure the hon. Member who last spoke that petitions are not treated in the cavalier fashion to which he has adverted."

Political detenues in this Presidency.

* 53 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to refer to the answer to my question No. 2147 of 16th July 1926 as to the provision made for the support of the political detenues in this Presidency and to state—

(*a*) having regard to the fact that the majority of them are given an allowance of Rs. 8–8–0 per mensem, on what calculation of their necessaries and ' an extra provision for luxuries ' is the estimate based ;

(*b*) whether Government have received reports or representations as to the inadequacy of the allowances and what orders have been passed on them ;

(*c*) to what different communities and castes and sexes do the several prisoners belong ;

(*d*) whether any of the political detenues are allowed to live outside a prison and, if so, what allowance is given them for lodging ; and

(*e*) how many of such political detenues are residing at Mangalore, what is their sex and age and what provision is made for their lodging and feeding ?

A.—(*a*) A uniform rate of Rs. 8–8–0 per mensem is fixed for the Madras State prisoners detained in jails in this Presidency. Of this, Rs. 6 for food and Rs. 1–8–0 for clothing and bedding are credited to the Jail department which supplies the prisoners with the jail diet and adequate clothing and bedding irrespective of the amounts credited to it. The balance of Re. 1 is to be spent on luxuries by the Superintendent of the jail in accordance with the wishes of each prisoner provided they are not incompatible with the jail regulations. It is not based on any special calculation.

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(*b*) No reports or representations as to the inadequacy of these allowances have been received.

(*c*) Of the 256 prisoners mentioned in the list placed on the table in connection with the answer to question No. 2147, 250 are Muhammadans, 2 Oriya Brahmans, 2 Bagalas and 2 Kshatriyas. All except one are males.

(*d*) Yes. Each prisoner is paid an allowance; the amount of the allowance varies according to circumstances.

(*e*) One; Chettali Beeyumma. She is about 76 years of age; she is given an allowance of Rs. 12 per mensem.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*d*) how many such persons are allowed to live outside the prison ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" About fifty or sixty of them."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" There is a woman 76 years of age who is kept in custody. What harm can she do if she is released ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" This question has been, I think, put for the third time on the floor of the House. It has been answered on the two previous occasions. This lady is not kept in prison. She is allowed to live in Mangalore and she is requested not to go to Malabar. She was concerned in a very horrible case which makes it very difficult both from her own point of view and from the point of view of others to allow her to go back to Malabar. I think she is much safer where she is."

11-30 a.m. Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" As I have already pointed out before, this woman is very keen for going to Malabar and she gives trouble to South Kanara. This woman is persistently troubling and she wants to be released."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is no question."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" From the Government's point of view it is desirable that she should be kept at Mangalore."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" May I know your question ?"

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" The hon. the Law Member stated that it was desirable she should be kept at Mangalore from the Government's point of view. May I know what is their point of view ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The case in which she was sent to jail is of a nature that cannot be revealed. I shall tell my hon. Friend privately, if necessary. I think it is believed that if she goes back, her life will not be worth a moment's purchase. That is what is apprehended. If she is kept in Mangalore, she troubles my hon. Friend. That was the reason given by my hon. Friend on a previous occasion. She was always running to him and bothering him. He should be a little more hard-hearted than apparently his position and his good nature permit him to be."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*a*) may I know if the diet supplied to the State prisoners is the same as that supplied to other prisoners or whether there is difference made ? I would further ask whether among State prisoners any difference of status is made or no difference is observed at all."

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The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I think there is a mistake. The answer, it will be noticed, says clearly that Rs. 6 for food and Rs. 1-8-0 for clothing, etc., are credited to the Jail department. It does not mean that the food is worth Rs. 6 or the clothing is worth Rs. 1-8-0. The cost of food supplied is not limited to the amount credited to the department. As this amount is to be paid by the Central Revenues under the rules governing State prisoners under Regulation II of 1819, a sum of Rs. 8-8-0 is credited to the Jail department for the subsistence of these State prisoners. A difference is made between State prisoners according to their status as provided in the Regulation of 1819. Those who are in jail do ordinarily receive the usual jail diet but each case is considered on its own merits and if a different kind of food is necessary, that is given."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know in how many cases such a difference has been made ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju :—" In view of the information given by the hon. Member, Mr. Saldanha, that the woman is anxious to go back to Malabar, will the hon. the Law Member ascertain whether she is so willing or will the hon. the Law Member be more solicitous about her safety than herself."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I do not consider it necessary to make further enquiries. She receives an allowance of Rs. 12 per mensem. Recently she wanted a pair of glasses and she was supplied with them. I thought that she worried my hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha alone. She seems to worry the hon. Member also."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" May I know if the hon. Member is aware of the fact that the rate of Rs. 8-8-0 is far less than the subsistence allowance paid to civil debtors ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" With great respect, I may add that Rs. 8-8-0 is not the amount allowed to the prisoners. That amount is credited in respect of each prisoner, to the Jail department from the Central Revenues. It does not mean the sum of Rs. 8-8-0 is the actual cost of the food supplied."

Mr. Mahmud Schamnad Sahib :—" Are the Government aware that the old woman has a daughter to support ? In view of that point, will the Government be pleased to allow her to go back to her house ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I was not aware that she has a daughter. But there is nothing to prevent the daughter to be with her mother."

Mr. Mahmud Schamnad Sahib :—" Will the Government be pleased to make an inquiry about the daughter's helplessness ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" If I may take the liberty of putting a question in answer to a question, may I know what the age of the daughter may be when this lady is 76 years old ? "

Mr. Mahmud Schamnad Sahib :—" It is stated that she is sickly and helpless. Will the hon. the Law Member make inquiries about it ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"We shall make inquiries about the helplessness referred to by my hon. Friend."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—"May I know whether the prisoner will be allowed to return to some other part of Malabar which is wide enough and large enough ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"No, Sir."

The hon. the President :—"When putting supplementary questions, hon. Members are requested to address the Chair and wait till their names are called."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"May I know whether the Government have passed final orders on the application of about ten Mappilla prisoners to be permitted to reside anywhere in the Presidency outside Malabar ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"I may say that the Government have from time to time been releasing various Mappilla prisoners. They have at present released 32 prisoners on the condition that they would live in various places, some in Madura, Vellore, Salem, Tuticorin Kurnool, Chittoor, Tanjore, Vaniambadi, Guntur, Anantapur, Masulipatam, etc."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"I may add that one has been released from Coimbatore. But my question is, the hon. Member may take some time to answer it, with respect to ten Mappilla prisoners who have been detained in the Coimbatore Jail and whose application has been forwarded for favourable consideration by the Jail Visitors' Committee. I want to know whether the Government have passed final orders in that matter."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"The policy of the Government in regard to this matter is to release Mappilla prisoners as far as possible if there are no dangers apprehended from their being released and they are kept under surveillance. With regard to these ten prisoners, if my hon. Friend will let me have their names or tell me when the request was transmitted to the Government, I shall examine the matter."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"May I know some of the luxuries supplied to the jail prisoners with the large sum of Re. 1 per mensem ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"With reference to the answer to clause (*d*), may I ask the hon. Law Member to tell us the maximum allowance paid in any one case ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"In one case it has gone up Rs. 43."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"What is the minimum ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"The minimum is Rs. 8-8-0."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju :—"Does the hon. Member think that the minimum allowance provided for the State prisoners is sufficient even for one meal a day ?"

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The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I think I have stated more than once that the sum of Rs. 6 does not represent the cost of food supplied to prisoners. Rupees 6 is the amount which is credited to the Jail department from the Central Revenues in this matter. This figure is fixed for the purpose of account."

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—" Does the Jail department supply food, for the sum of Rs. 6 credited to them, worth more than that sum? If so, from what amount will they meet the excess? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The jail budget provides for food and it has been generally taken for granted, I think, that the jail food both in the number of times supplied and the quality is unexceptionable."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know the amount of money that is necessary for a month to meet the food expenses of the prisoners? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The amount of money that is necessary for a convict to live on is not a matter on which I have ready information. My hon. Colleague may be able to supply that information if questions are put to him. The Jail department supplies food to the prisoners in the various jails and on the whole the impression is, as I said, in the number of times, the quality and the quantity of food supplied, good."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" In view of the answer which the hon. Member gave just now, may I take it that the sum of Rs. 6 represents something more than or less than the cost of food supplied? If so, may I know what it costs the Jail department? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I cannot give an answer straightaway. But, as I said, nobody gets less, either in the number of times or in the quality, than the ordinary people detained in the jails."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" May I ask what will be the approximate cost of the food supplied? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" That is a question that has been asked more than once and I like to have notice."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" On what basis is this amount fixed? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Prisoners under Regulation No. II of 1819 are detained at the cost of the Central Revenues. In the matter of accounting and the adjustment of the accounts between the Central Government and the Provincial Government, certain allowance has to be given. The sum of Rs. 6 plus Rs. 1–8–0 was fixed in this matter and that figure subsists."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know whether this Government or the Central Government pay the extra charges over and above Rs. 6? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" This Government."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Since the figure was fixed long ago, will this Government represent to the Central Government that the former is put to a large expenditure? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The suggestion will be noted.'

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Minor Irrigation

Alleged wastage of water in irrigation tank s.

*54 Q. –Mr. J. Kuppuswami : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether any circulars have been issued to prevent wastage of water in irrigation tanks by wilful neglect on the part of the ryots and whether any orders exist making the village headmen responsible for bringing to the notice of the authorities cases of such wastage ?

A.—The hon. Member's attention is invited to paragraph 3 of Board's Standing Order No. 84 and to paragraph 1 of section 30 of Chapter V of the Village Officers Manual.

Forests

Grazing fees for cattle in Cuddapah district.

*55 Q.—Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that in the Cuddapah district grazing fees are charged at very much higher rates for foreign cattle even of the adjoining districts than for indigenous cattle ;

(*b*) if so, what the reasons are for such a differential treatment ;

(*c*) the number of cattle (approximately) driven to the Cuddapah district from the Nellore district every year ;

(*d*) whether the question of treating both the indigenous and the foreign cattle without difference, has been considered by the Government; and

(*e*) if so, with what results ?

A.—The Government have called for the information.

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" May I know when the information was called for ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" Recently."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" Am I to understand that the Government did not consider the question as promised by them one year back ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" We have no information ; therefore we have called for it."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know if foreign cattle are charged very much higher rates, and whether in certain districts cattle beyond a range of 5 miles are considered to be foreign cattle ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I should like to have notice of the question."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" May I know, in view of the scarcity of fodder in the district, if the hon. Member will be pleased to allow free grazing of cattle this year ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" It is a suggestion for action."

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Forest Panchayats

Forest panchayats in Guntur district.

*56 Q.—Mr. G. PREMAYYA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many forest panchayats are working in Guntur district;

(b) how many in Bapatla taluk;

(c) what is the yearly Government income from the forests in Bapatla taluk; and

(d) whether the Government propose to disafforest the Bapatla taluk reserve forests for assignment to the Depressed Classes Tenants' Co-operative Societies?

A.—(a) Sixty panchayats were working in the Guntur district at the end of September 1926.

(b) & (c) The Government have not the information for taluks separately.

(d) There is no such proposal before the Government.

Mr. G. PREMAYYA :—" Sir, with regard to clauses (b) and (c), it is said that the Government have not got the information for taluks separately. May I know if the Government have got the information only for the district and not for taluks separately?" 11-45 a.m.

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" We have no information on the subject at present. We shall have to call for it if the hon. Member so desires."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, from the hon. Member what are the classes of forests handed over to the panchayats?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The ryots' forests generally."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I also know whether the forests are not divided into five classes and only the last class or the last two classes are handed over to the ryots?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" If that is so, may I know whether the Government are prepared to hand over better classes of forests, as I understand that classes 4 and 5 are absolutely worthless in regard to the demands that the villagers make on such national properties?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" This is again a suggestion for action, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have already ruled that if the question is only a simple one to be answered by the Government, it has to be answered."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It is not a simple question, Sir. It suggests that a particular . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is left to the hon. the President to decide whether the question is simple or complicated."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Then, Sir, I should like to have notice of the question."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Member in charge of the department is prepared to make the necessary enquiry into the matter and furnish an answer later on ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Certainly, Sir. I shall do so."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" Sir, with reference to clause (*b*), will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to disafforest the Papanasam and Courtallam taluks in the Tinnevelly district ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" This has nothing to do with forests in the Tinnevelly district. The question is regarding forests in the Guntur district."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" It is a general answer, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" As regards the answer that there were sixty panchayats working in the Guntur district at the end of September 1926, may I know whether all of them were by nomination or election ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I should like to have notice of the question, Sir."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" With reference to clause (*d*), may I know whether the Depressed Classes Tenants' Co-operative Societies have been recognized by the Government ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I should like to have notice of this question also, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know, Sir, whether any reports have been received by the Government as regards the unsatisfactory working of these panchayats, some of them at least, Palnad for instance ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" In order to answer the question exactly, I want notice, Sir ; but in some cases, Government have received reports that some of these panchayats are not satisfactorily working, but I do not remember which."

Local Boards and Municipal Councils

Nomination of Mr. Suryanarayanamurti Pantulu to Ganjam District Board.

*57 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the President, District Board, Ganjam, has recommended the nomination of one Mr. A. Suryanarayanamurti Pantulu for the District Board of Ganjam ;

(*b*) the number of Telugu Brahmans who are now members of the District Board of Ganjam ;

(*c*) whether the said Murti Pantulu has been re-nominated to the Taluk Board of Chatrapur ; and

(*d*) whether the Government have issued or will issue instructions to the President, District Board, Ganjam, as to the correct principles to be followed in the matter of making nominations ?

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A.—(*a*) Mr. A. Suryanarayanamurti Pantulu is a member of the District Board. He was appointed on 18th November 1924.

(*b*) Three.

(*c*) The Government have no information.

(*d*) Instructions have been issued already to presidents of local boards in G.Os. No. 2525, L. & M., dated 18th December 1922, and No. 3251, L. & M., dated 9th September 1925.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Sir, in answer to clause (*c*), the Government say that they have no information. In view of the fact that there has been a violation of the Local Boards Act and of the instructions issued in G.Os. No. 2525, L. & M., and No. 3251, L. & M., will the Government be pleased to call for information ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The Government will call for the information."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" With reference to clause (*d*), the Government are pleased to say that they have issued instructions in the Government Orders quoted there ; but in view of the fact that in the recent nominations to the District Board of Ganjam in 1926 and 1925, the instructions in the Government Orders have been violated, will the Government be pleased to call for information as to how far the principles laid down in the Government Orders have been observed, at any rate in four taluks ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I do not think the information will serve any useful purpose. So far as I am aware, the Government do not seem to have power to disallow these nominations."

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—" Are there no instances where the Government interfered with the nominations made as being in excess of the powers of the Presidents of Taluk Boards or District Boards ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I do not think the Government, as far as I am aware, can cancel such nominations."

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—" Is there no section of the Local Boards Act—I think section 33 or so says that—which says that any action taken by the President of a Local Board can be cancelled or may be cancelled by the Government, and was not any action taken in virtue of that section in some instances ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As advised at present, the Government have no such power."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Will the Government be pleased to say whether they propose to take any action with a view to check arbitrary nominations ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That question is answered under question No. 58."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know when they are going to prevent such nominations ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am not in a position to state that at present, Sir."

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Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib Bahadur :—" May I know whether there are any Muslims nominated on the District Board of Ganjam?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I want notice of that question, Sir."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" In answer to clause (c) 'whether the said Murti Pantulu has been re-nominated to the Taluk Board of Chatrapur,' the answer is that Government have no information. It is not understood what is meant by that answer. Is it that the Government could not obtain the information for want of time or that the information is not at all available either in the records of the Government or in those of the taluk board concerned?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I have already stated that the Government will obtain the information required."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" Is it for want of time that this kind of answer is given?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" It is for the hon. Member to presume so."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" Sir, since it is some time since the Ministers issued the instructions in September 1925 and as they are not being properly observed, will the Government be pleased to issue the instructions once again?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I do not think these instructions need be re-issued, because they have already been communicated to all the district boards."

Alleged arbitrary nominations by district board presidents.

* 58 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : With reference to questions 2013–2015 answered on 13th July 1926, will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what steps have been or are proposed to be taken by legislation or otherwise to control and supervise the arbitrary nominations by the district board presidents to taluk and union boards; and

(b) whether Government have decided to find ways and means to check arbitrary acts of presidents of local boards and chairmen of municipalities where there is no provision of law for setting aside their orders and, if so, what their proposals are?

A.—(a) The Government have issued instructions to presidents of district and taluk boards in the matter of nominations to be made to taluk and union boards. They also propose to amend section 9 (5) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, so as to provide for the making of rules to secure the representation of Muhammadans, Indian Christians, depressed and backward classes and other minorities, and for the cancellation of nominations made in contravention of such rules.

(b) If the hon. Member will specify the arbitrary acts referred to, the Government will be able to state or to formulate their proposals.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" In view of the repeated violation of the orders on the part of the district boards, are Government prepared to take urgent steps to bring in the necessary legislation?"

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The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"As I said in answer to the previous question, that matter is now under the consideration of the Government."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—"It is stated in answer to clause (a) that it is proposed to amend section 9 (5) of the Madras Local Boards Act. May I know from the hon. the Minister whether it is proposed to have a single amendment for a single section or amendments to the entire Act?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"As was mentioned in His Excellency's opening speech yesterday, the Government are considering amendments to the whole Act."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—"May I know, Sir, whether the amendment will govern also cases of nomination by Government?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I want notice of that, Sir."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—"It is stated in the answer, Sir, that if any arbitrary acts were brought to the notice of the Government, they would take some action. May I know if the hon. the Minister received a copy of the booklet published by Mr. C. K. Reddi, the ex-President of the Bezwada Taluk Board, entitled 'The Zamindar of Mirzapuram, President of the District Board, a few of his activities and achievements in the Department of Local Self-Government'?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I have received that book, Sir."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—"May I know, Sir, if he is going to take any action with regard to the several arbitrary acts depicted in that booklet?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I might give it for the useful information of the hon. Member concerned that there are big counter-booklets received even by means of telegram every day."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—"May I know, Sir, if a committee of enquiry, as asked for in that booklet, will not serve the purpose, so that an investigation may be made with regard to this booklet and the counter-booklets and pamphlets?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I would like to ask you, Sir, how that arises out of this question."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"He has volunteered to give the answer, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"May I know the reasons why the hon. the Minister objects to answer the question?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The question has a general reference to all district boards and taluk boards, but he is making a specific proposal in respect of a particular district board. I will have to look into the papers before I can answer the question."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Then it must be that the Minister wants notice; he cannot say that it is out of order."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Moreover, Sir, the Chief Minister comes up saying 'I am receiving complaints and counter-complaints in the form of books and therefore I am not going to look into the matter.' I dare say very

many more will be received by him before he is done with his office. May I ask whether he is going to investigate this matter or is he going to be submerged under these books and never look into them ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I never said anything of the kind, Sir. I said I was considering what to do."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" As the hon. the Minister and the Government are aware that this power of nomination vested in the Presidents are now being more abused than used in the light of several cases published in the dailies of Madras, may I know what action they propose to take in this direction ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question has been answered."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" In the answer to clause (*b*), I have been asked to specify the arbitrary acts referred to. I think I can specify some of the arbitrary acts ; for instance, appointments, secondly contracts, etc. Is the hon. Member aware—I think he must be aware—that the arbitrary appointments, the arbitrary disposal of contracts and other matters on the part of Presidents are becoming a perfect scandal and therefore I think the hon. Minister . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" How does this supplemental question arise out of the answer given in (*b*) ? "

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Clauses (*a*) and (*b*) together, Sir. Apart from the general amendment of the whole Act, as this matter has become one of a serious kind, and requires urgent attention, is the hon the Minister going to take immediate action on this or not ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question has already been answered."

Village Panchayats

Report of the Therkupatti village panchayat on the levy of house-tax.

* 59 Q.—Mr. Chavadi K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the illegal taxes levied by the president of the village panchayat at Therkupatti on money-lenders, karaswans of chit funds and dealers in sheep and goats have been cancelled by the Government on the report of the Assistant Registrar of Panchayats who appears to have made local enquiries in the village on receipt of memorials from the villagers concerned ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the panchayat of Therkupatti has been asked to submit proposals for the levy of house-tax, and if so, whether any report has been received on the subject ; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the president objects to the levy of house-tax, and if so, what steps the Government intend taking in the matter ?

A.—(*a*) No taxes have yet been cancelled by the Government. The matter is pending with the Registrar-General of Panchayats.

(*b*) & (*c*) There is no information. It has been called for from the Registrar-General of Panchayats.

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Industries

Establishment of industrial and technical schools in the Presidency.

*60 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Minister for Development and the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what measures Government have taken or propose to take to establish industrial and technical schools of the various grades required for helping the industrial development of the Presidency at Madras and other various centres; and

(b) whether Government have decided or contemplate establishing industrial schools in any of the following towns: Coimbatore, Calicut and Mangalore?

A.—(a) The policy of Government in respect of industrial schools has been set out in G.O. No. 2043, dated 28th November 1924, which has been placed on Editors' Table.

The two engineering schools which are located at Vizagapatam and Trichinopoly are the only technical schools now maintained by Government. They do not propose to open additional engineering schools at present.

(b) The Government propose to establish a model industrial school on the West Coast. The question of selecting a suitable centre for locating the school is under consideration.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha:—"With regard to clause (b), are Government aware that apart from the Presidency as a whole, Mangalore is by far the most industrial centre in the Madras Presidency itself? In view of that, are Government going to take any steps to start an industrial school at Mangalore?"

The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"As I have already said, the question of selecting a suitable centre is under consideration."

The hon. the President: –' The allotted time for questions and answers being over, the House will now proceed to the next order of th day."

Government aid to industries.

*61 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to my question No. 2237 of 17th July 1926—

(a) what is the result of the enquiries made by Government as to the condition of old industries like weaving and tile-making throughout the Presidency;

(b) what measures Government propose to take for the aid of such industries; and

(c) whether the present State Aid to Industries Act has been found defective for that purpose and, if so, how Government propose to mend its defects?

A.—(a) As the result of the consideration referred to in the answer to question No. 2237 of 17th July 1926, the Government have decided to begin a survey of cottage industries, existing and potential, in order to devise measures for organizing and developing them. No inquiries were made by the Government about the condition of old industries.

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(b) & (c) None, because old and well-established industries like weaving factories and tile manufacture must be left for private enterprise to be developed or set right on co-operative or other lines suited to the circumstances of each case.

Public Health

Prohibition of the public health staff from carrying on anti-drink propaganda.

* 62 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to the answer given to my question No. 2082 on 15th July 1926, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the orders passed by Government (G.O. Mis. No. 1776, P.H., dated 25th August 1925) prohibiting the public health staff from carrying on anti-drink propaganda are still in force; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to modify or cancel the same?

A.—(a) Yes.
(b) No.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Civil Justice

Location of the new Additional Munsif's Court for North Arcot district.

63 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that an Additional Munsif's Court has been sanctioned for North Arcot district;

(b) whether there is a proposal to locate the new Court at Arni;

(c) whether the litigants have to go to Arni from Cheyyar at a considerable inconvenience, and whether there has been a persistent agitation for a Munsif's Court to be located at Cheyyar; and

(d) whether the hon. Member has considered the desirability of locating the Court at Cheyyar (Tiruvattipuram) which is a rising commercial town and centrally situated for the area sought to be served?

A.—No new Additional District Munsif's Court has been sanctioned for the North Arcot district. The High Court is the authority empowered by law to fix the location of District Munsifs' Courts.

Elections

Alleged interference of Government servants in the elections to the Legislative Council.

64 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government made enquiries into the alleged interference of Government servants in the Legislative Council by-election in North Arcot district in February last, which was the subject of an adjournment motion brought by Mr. S. Satyamurti, M.L.C., on 15th February 1926;

(b) who made the enquiries, who were the people examined and what is the result of those enquiries;

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(*c*) whether those who had given sworn affidavits bearing witness to such acts of interference were examined; and

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table the final orders passed on this matter?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to page 595 of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council, Volume XXVII, No. 6. As promised in the debate on the adjournment motion the affidavit was forwarded to the Collector of North Arcot with a request that the matter should be looked into.

Irrigation.

The Mettur Project.

65 *Q.*—Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the proceedings of the Mettur Project Committee have been published and whether it will be placed on the Council table;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Coimbatore district is to be given the privilege of taking water from Mettur Project and, if so, on what conditions; and

(*c*) whether that privilege cannot be extended to Salem also on the same conditions?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The question of extensions of irrigation under the project in the Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly districts has been considered by the Government but dropped on account of engineering difficulties and prohibitive cost. A copy of G.O. No. 1974 I., dated the 16th December 1926, passing orders on the subject has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Revenue from and expenditure on protective and productive works.

66 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total capital expenditure incurred by the Government till last year under the head of (*a*) Productive works, (*b*) Protective works; and

(*b*) what is the revenue derived by Government under each of the two heads for 1925–26?

A.—The following statement gives the information required:—

	Productive works.	Protective (now termed unproductive) works.
	RS	RS.
(*a*) Total capital expenditure to end of 1925–26.	7,54,99,546	81,30,901
(*b*) Net revenue derived in 1925-26.	91,87,253	1,14,877

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Land Revenue.

Failure of crops in Goutami lankas.

67 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the first crops in Goutami lankas in East Godavari had altogether failed owing to excessive rains and floods in the Godavari and the second crops have also failed in nearly all the lankas owing to the failure of monsoon since September last and for other reasons;

(*b*) whether the attention of the hon. Member has been drawn to the conference held on 5th instant at Mulastanam by the Goutami lanka ryots whereat they passed resolutions (i) requesting the Government to stop collections for the months of March and April next and (ii) to appoint a committee to ascertain whether the crops failed as stated by them and to fix the remissions to be granted to them; and

(*c*) whether the Government will accede to their request?

A.—The Government are not aware that the case is as stated. They have no information about the conference. But they would draw the hon. Member's attention to the fact that the ordinary rules relating to assessment and disposal of land or remission are not applicable to these 'lankas', which are *leased* out on specific conditions laid down in G.O. No. 586, Revenue, dated 10th March 1920, which was placed on the Editors' Table.

Emigration.

Alleged defective arrangements in ships carrying repatriates from South Africa.

68 Q.—Mr. C. Gopala Menon: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state what action has been taken by the Government on the report of the Protector of Emigrants and the Medical Inspector regarding the defective arrangements in the ships carrying repatriates from South Africa, referred to in the report of the Commissioner of Labour for the year 1925–26?

A.—The matter is under correspondence with the Government of India.

Forests.

Issue of permits for manure leaves in North Arcot district.

69 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that permits for manure leaves were not issued this year in North Arcot district;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that permits were issued last year at Rs. 2 per cartload; and

(*c*) why the removal of manure leaves was stopped this year?

A.—The Government have no information but have called for it.

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Arable land within the 'Reserve line' of Mahadevamalai.

70 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that an area of about 20 acres of arable land is within the present 'Reserve line' of Mahadevamalai, near Kanguppam village in the North Arcot district;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that this piece of land has no trees on it and whether the land was under cultivation by the ryots of Kanguppam prior to the reserve being established;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that this reserve line is adjacent to and almost touching the cultivated fields of the ryots of Kanguppam village; and

(*d*) whether Government will be pleased to call for a report as to whether the above block of 20 acres cannot be taken out of the 'reserve' and allotted for cultivation to the ryots of Kanguppam village?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information.

(*d*) The Chief Conservator's attention will be drawn to the matter.

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Construction of village roads in Kuppam-Banavaram.

71 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a mahazar from K. M. Rathna Pillai and others of Kuppam-Banavaram in North Arcot district to lay out village roads connecting their village with the public main road; and

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

A.—(*a*) No such petition has been received.

Constitution of Udipi town into a municipality.

72 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: With reference to my question No. 2103 put on 15th July 1926, will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to organize the town of Udipi into a municipality or an union board?

A.—The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has visited South Kanara to examine and report whether a municipality or union should be formed at Udipi. His report is under consideration.

Road from Bantwal to the Mysore frontier.

73 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state, with reference to the answer to my question No. 2247 of 17th July 1926,—

(*a*) what is the constitution of the committee appointed to classify roads, who are its members, when was it appointed, and what are its various functions;

(*b*) in what class that committee has decided to place the Mangalore-Charmudi road from Bantwal to the Mysore frontier; and

(c) whether representations have been received from some people in South Kanara and any public bodies on the subject, and, if so, from whom and what orders Government have passed on them?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (c) of question No. 2247 of 17th July last.

(c) Representations have been received. The matter is being considered by the Government.

Application for acquisition of a Maruthuvar's mutt from the Tiruvannamalai Municipal Council.

74 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tiruvannamalai Municipal Council applied for the acquisition of a Maruthuvar's mutt for constructing a market on the spot;

(b) whether it is a fact that the mutt belongs to the whole Maruthuvar community of South India and is used by them for charitable and religious purposes during the annual festivals in this place of pilgrimage;

(c) whether it is a fact that all communities in South India have similar mutts in this town under their communal control;

(d) whether it is a fact that the mutt was granted to the community in Sakhabdam 1563 and that they have a copper grant to that effect; and

(e) whether the Government will be pleased to enquire into the matter and protect the interests of this backward community?

A.—(a) No such application has been received.

(b) *to* (d) The Government have no information.

(e) Yes, if any proposal is made to acquire the mutt.

Co-operative Societies.

Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies.

75 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies under the new scheme are given powers of registration concurrent with the Deputy Registrars;

(b) whether it is a fact that all unlimited liability societies are directly under the control of the Assistant Registrars and that the Deputy Registrars are not in touch with them;

(c) whether it is a fact that orders have been issued by the Registrar to the effect that Assistant Registrars should undertake no responsible duties without consulting the Deputy Registrars;

(d) whether it is a fact that the registration of societies and amendments of by-laws are very badly delayed as they have to go to the Deputy Registrars through the Assistant Registrars;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Registrars were appointed only for non-credit work under the new scheme; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the Provincial Co-operative Conference has passed a resolution recommending the abolition of the posts of Deputy Registrars as unnecessary and even harmful to the movement?

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A.—(*a*) No. The registration of all societies is done by Deputy Registrars.

(*b*) Agricultural credit societies on unlimited liability are under the direct control of the Assistant Registrars. It is not a fact that Deputy Registrars are not in touch with them.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) No. Deputy Registrars are directly responsible for non-credit work but the 'credit' work of the Assistant Registrars is also under their supervision.

(*f*) The resolution passed is as follows :—

'Resolved that the office of the Deputy Registrar be abolished.'

No grounds for abolition were stated therein.

Liquidation of the Aiyiramangalam Co-operative Society in North Arcot district.

76 *Q.*—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Aiyiramangalam Co-operative Society in North Arcot district was 'liquidated' and, if so, when;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the remuneration paid to the secretary of the society on the sanction of the general body of the members of the society and the local union was disallowed by Mr. C. D. Nayagam, the then Assistant Registrar, successively for three years and whether the amount is shown as 'suspense to be recovered' in the audit reports;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Registrar has sanctioned the remuneration paid to the secretaries in the other co-operative societies in the North Arcot district;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that in spite of this, Mr. Nayagam insists on recovering the amount in his capacity as 'Liquidator';

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the secretary of the co-operative society has issued a 'civil' notice to Mr. C. D. Nayagam;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the society was working satisfactorily until the (then) Assistant Registrar began to interfere with it; and

(*g*) what the reasons are for liquidation and whether the relationship between the secretary and the then Assistant Registrar was one of the reasons for liquidation?

A.—(*a*) Yes; on 27th March 1925.

(*b*) Remuneration was recommended by the society and the union but had not the sanction of the Assistant Registrar as required by the society's rules and the society itself passed a resolution directing recovery of the amount from the secretary. The payment was disallowed by the Assistant Registrar and the amount was shown as 'suspense pending recovery'.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The liquidator has passed a contribution order against the secretary. The Registrar after enquiry found no reason to ask the liquidator to reopen the question of recovery of the honorarium irregularly taken by the secretary.

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(e) The Government have no information.

(f) No.

(g) The reasons for liquidating the society are—

(i) that the panchayatdars allowed 23 loans amounting to Rs. 1,089 under principal and Rs. 621-12-9 under interest to become time-barred without taking any steps to collect them ;

(ii) that the panchayatdars themselves were defaulters ;

(iii) that the overdues from members to the society and from the society to the financing bank became alarmingly heavy ; and

(iv) all attempts made to improve the society both by the department and by the Kalavai union, to which it was affiliated, proved fruitless.

The relationship between the secretary and the then Assistant Registrar was not one of the reasons for liquidation.

Industries.

Working of the Carnatic Paper Mill, Limited, Rajahmundry.

77 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the amount lent to the Carnatic Paper Mill, Limited, at Rajahmundry and for what purpose ;

(b) whether the mill is now working ;

(c) if not, why not ; and

(d) whether the Government have any intention of assuming the control of this mill by advancing the necessary capital ?

A.—(a) A loan of Rs. 4½ lakhs has been given to the company for the operation of its pulp and paper mills at Rajahmundry. The Government have also guaranteed the company an over draft of Rs. 1,34,469-3-4 plus interest with the Imperial Bank of India, Madras.

(b) No.

(c) For want of further capital.

(d) The future of the mill is under the consideration of Government.

Soap-manufacturing Institute at Madras and at Madura.

78 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the capital expenditure incurred by the Government for the Soap-manufacturing branch of the Institute

(i) at Madras,

(ii) at Madura ; and

(b) what profits are derived by Government from each of the above institutes during the last year ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Soap is manufactured in neither of the institutions referred to. Soap manufacture is carried on in the Kerala Soap Institute at Calicut. The capital expenditure and the profits are worked out in the balance sheet and profit and loss account of the concern for the year 1925–26 published with G.O. No. 1632, dated 15th November 1926, copy of which has been placed on the Council table.

Excise.

Prohibition and methods for making up the excise revenue.

79 *Q*.—Mr. C. Gopala Menon : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the question of finding out ways and means for making up the excise revenue in case prohibition is adopted was referred to the Finance Committee of the last Council ;

(*b*) whether the Committee has submitted its report ; and

(*c*) if the report has not been made, whether the Government propose to refer the question to the newly constituted committee for reconsideration and early report ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) The question has been referred to the Finance Committee of the present Council. The Committee's report has not yet been received.

[*Note*.—**An asterisk * at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

* Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I want to make a personal explanation, Sir, with your permission just for a second as to what was stated by the hon. the Law Member yesterday about my quoting wrong figures. I want to refer only to one fact. He said that I was over-enthusiastic and stated that the area is 55 square miles whereas it is really 30 square miles . . ." 12 noon.

* The hon. the President :—" Order, order. I am not able to understand under what Standing Order the hon. Member is raising the question now."

* Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" It is a general Standing Order, Sir, that after question time matters regarding personal explanations may be referred to. It has been usual to permit personal explanations like that."

* The hon. the President :—" It has been usual to bring to the notice of the President such intention and to mention certain matters involving personal explanation, and take his permission. Such a thing has not been done in this particular case."

* Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I am applying to you for permission to make the explanation."

* The hon. the President :—" Before raising the question in the House it has been the practice of Members of this House to mention such things to the President in his room and take his permission. That has not been done in this case."

* Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Very well, Sir, I shall do it in this case also to-morrow."

II

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF INDUSTRIES.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that as the result of the election held yesterday of two members to represent this Council on the Board of Industries, the following hon. Members have been declared elected :—

Mr. J. A. Saldanha.

Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu."

III

AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, I beg leave of the House for moving the amendments to the Standing Orders as per notice paper circulated to hon. Members."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Under Standing Order 76 notice of motion for amending certain Standing Orders has been given by the hon. Member Mr. Saldanha and the amendments which he wants to propose are already circulated to hon. Members of the Council. I do not think I need read through all the amendments proposed by him. I wish to know whether the hon. Member has got the permission of the House to move those amendments."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I submit one thing, Mr. President? Not that I have any objection to the course suggested by you, but probably some of my hon. Colleagues may have objections to one amendment and others to another. So, may I suggest that you may place the amendments tabled by my hon. Friend one by one separately before the House? That is only a suggestion to you, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" If it is the wish of the House, I shall put the amendments to the Standing Orders one by one."

The hon. the President then put the following amendments to the Standing Orders, one by one, and, no hon. Member having objected to them, declared that Mr. Saldanha had the leave of the House to move those amendments :—

Standing Order 19.

After Standing Order 19 *add* the following :—

" 19A. Every question admitted shall be given an answer unless the answer be against public interests."

Standing Order 26.

(i) After the words " from his place " *insert* the words " or from any other special place provided by the President ".

(ii) After the words " shall address the President " *add* the words " and the Members of the Council facing the latter ".

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Standing Order 28.

After item (vi) *add* the following as a new item :—

" (vii) refer to any personal or semi-official correspondence between himself and any Minister or Executive Member of the Council or any other official."

Standing Order 33.

Add the following as sub-clause (4) :—

" (4) No debate may be closed unless the motion that 'the question be now put' has been carried."

Standing Order 39.

Add at the end the words " unless twenty or more Members present object to such suspension."

When amendment to Standing Order 47 was being put to the House, Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao rose to speak.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order. At this stage no other question arises except an expression of the wish to object to the particular amendment to Standing Orders. (After a pause.) No hon. Member having objected, Mr. Saldanha has the leave of the House to move the amendment to Standing Order 47 which is as follows :—

Standing Order 47.

Add at the end the words 'and from day to day without adjournment of the sitting for a period exceeding three days unless the House decides in favour of a longer period'."

The following amendment to Standing Order 49 was similarly put to the House, and no Member having objected, Mr. Saldanha was given leave to move the amendment :—

Standing Order 49.

Sub-clause (2).

Add the following at the end of the sub-clause :—

" Such power shall not be exercised if twenty or more of the Members present support the Member who objects to the passing of the Bill at the same sitting."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It now remains to refer the draft amendments to a select committee in accordance with Standing Order 77. The President, the Deputy President and the Advocate-General are ex-officio members of the select committee, and the Council will elect six members by means of the single transferable vote in accordance with the regulations framed in this behalf under Standing Order 77 for this purpose. Nomination papers may be handed in to the Secretary not later than 2-30 p.m. to-day. I nominate Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar one of the members of the Panel of Chairmen as member of the committee."

IV

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

FAMINE-RELIEF WORKS IN NELLORE AND OTHER DISTRICTS—*cont.*

Resolution No. 1 was then taken up.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The amendment of Mr. Harisarvottama Rao as further amended by the addition of the words as moved by Mr. Anjaneyulu now stands for the consideration of the House. Since yesterday, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti has given notice of an amendment which runs thus :

' After the words " Kurnool district ", *insert* the words " South Arcot, Salem, Ganjam, Tinnevelly, Chingleput, North Arcot, Coimbatore including the Kollegal taluk in particular, Tanjore, Cuddapah, Trichinopoly, Madura, the non-deltaic tracts of West Godavari and the Agency tracts in East Godavari." ' "

* Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" Sir, yesterday, when you called on me to speak . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" May I know if the hon. Member wishes to make a speech on the amendment, or has he got anything to state in regard to the amendments to be taken into consideration ? "

* Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" I am speaking in support of the amendment also, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" We have not yet reached that stage. Now, I call upon Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti to move his amendment."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Sir, I should like to move the amendment of which I have given notice and which runs thus :

' After the words " Kurnool district ", *insert* the words " South Arcot, Salem, Ganjam, Tinnevelly, Chingleput, North Arcot, Coimbatore including the Kollegal taluk in particular, Tanjore, Cuddapah, Trichinopoly, Madura, the non-deltaic tracts of West Godavari and the Agency tracts in East Godavari." '

" On enquiry I find, Sir, that there is hardly any district in the Madras Presidency which has escaped famine this year, and therefore it is that I have taken care to include all these districts about which hon. Members have already given notices, in order to save time and also to facilitate discussion of the whole question, seeing that the hon. Members representing Government may wish to give a comprehensive answer also. I beg to move the amendment that I have already read out."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think the hon. Member has to omit Chingleput, because the amendment of Mr. Harisarvottama Rao does include Chingleput. He may introduce the amendment in that amended form."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" May I point out, Sir, that there is an omission in regard to the Ramnad district ? I think it is only accidental. Probably the hon. Mover is still under the impression that Ramnad is part of the old Madura district."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I with your permission *omit* the word ' Chingleput ' and *insert* the word ' Ramnad ', Sir ? "

The permission was granted and the substitution was accordingly made.

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* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I want to second this proposition as it includes practically all the districts in the Presidency now, and I think the Government may fairly have an idea that it is the wish of the whole House that the Government should carefully go into this matter. I know the hon. the Revenue Member will come before us with his usual stereo-typed answer and say that there are Standing Orders, the Famine Code, and the host of Revenue subordinates who are going into all these questions and that therefore the Government need not take any further matters into consideration. I think in this particular matter we can expect him to go a little more into details and tell us exactly as to how the season stands in the whole Presidency. We are in this unfortunate position of not being able to have access to Government records, and in some cases I may say that even if we have been able to look into the Government records through the considerate kindness of some subordinate officers in the districts, we may not be able to publish that information. Therefore we would request the hon. the Revenue Member to give us details about the state of the season in the whole Presidency and also tell us exactly what steps the Government are going to take in this matter. We know that whenever such difficulties arise the Member of the Government, and the Revenue Commissioner also, are likely to tour in the various districts affected. But we have had experience of such tours and I do not think, however eminent, however clever and however considerate an officer may be, it will be quite possible for him to get at the correct facts in regard to the whole Presidency. The resolution which I have the honour to second includes the Coimbatore district and makes special reference to the Kollegal taluk. If I make reference specially to the Kollegal taluk, it is not because the other taluks of the district are not bad. It is simply because Kollegal taluk is much worse than all the other taluks in the Coimbatore district and probably many other parts of the Presidency. The Kollegal taluk is one of those taluks where we have plenty of forests and plenty of water, and as is usual with our Coimbatore district, we are always charitable in this supply of water to others. The water of the Kollegal taluk is taken down to other parts of the Presidency by the Cauvery and a large tract of the Mysore territory is given irrigation conveniences. So far as the Kollegal taluk is concerned, although it is a fairly big taluk, there is only an ayacut of about 6,000 acres and I understand that the Government subordinates have satisfied themselves that more than 50 per cent of that ayacut must have remissions. That shows that even in this taluk 12-15 p.m. where plenty of water is available the lands are in a very bad state. I have referred to Kollegal and it will be unnecessary for me to refer to the other taluks in the district. For the last four or five years, famine conditions have been prevalent in at least four taluks in the district. So both the Collector and the Board of Revenue have been compelled to make all possible concessions to help the people of the taluks there. I have had the honour of moving an adjournment motion in regard to that district and in addition to the various things that have been already said the Revenue Member stated that granting some more loans would be of great use. Without in any way minimizing the effect of granting large loans to the ryots, I must still say that there are many things to be considered by Government. One important thing at present is to postpone the payment of kist. I think this fact will be represented to the Government by almost every Member that may have the fortune of catching the eye of the President to-day and may speak on the matter. They will all say that crops have failed and Government

should look into the matter to see that remission is given and to enable the Government to make up their mind as to what remission should be given suspension of the kist should be forthwith ordered. There are a number of rules under the Famine Code, the remission rules and other things. I repeat once more what I said. The Famine Code has become ante-diluvian. It contains provisions which have become practically useless. I will repeat the request which was made in this House two years ago, i.e., the sooner the Government appoints a committee the better for the Government as well as the public at large. Strictly speaking, Sir, the word 'famine' is very difficult to define according to the provisions of that Code and the Government always say, 'well according to the Famine Code there is no famine in the district.' A Collector who was very friendly towards me once took me to task for writing to the newspapers that famine conditions existed in our district simply because the definitions contained in the Famine Code were not applicable to the conditions then existing in the Coimbatore district. Therefore the postponement and suspension of tax is one of the first points to be decided upon by the Government.

"The second point is the free grazing in the reserved forests. About three years ago, so far as the Coimbatore district was concerned, Government were pleased to permit the free grazing of cattle in the reserved forests from whatever portions of the district they came. That, of course, was very useful at the time. In fact that will be more profitable from the Government point of view than having recourse to other remedies, such as permitting the carriage of straw from one district to another under very favourable conditions. Under that condition, Sir, the Government pay the difference and incur great loss and we were permitted to tranship great quantity of straw from Tanjore to Coimbatore. Tanjore was kind enough to sell straw that year. Again this is a matter that ought to be looked into, and I hope the hon. the Revenue Member will not have any objection after consultation with the hon. the Home Member to permit free grazing in the reserved forests. I think special requests will be made from other districts in the course of the discussion on this amendment. The matter is very important and I appeal to the hon. the Revenue Member and through him the Government that small committees in each district may be appointed by the Government to make report as to the urgent remedies that will be required so that they may be given effect to at once besides the suspension of the Standing Orders and the Famine Code. I hope, Sir, that in this matter the Government and the experienced hon. the Revenue Member will look into things a little more sympathetically and a little more liberally than the Government is accustomed to do in such cases."

* Rao Bahadur K. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, I heartily endorse the words of my previous speaker, the hon. Member Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. South Arcot, it has been said, is a district in which no famine ever occurs generally. But this year it has been very unlucky and I hear complaints from elderly people that the district has not been visited with such a famine for the last forty or fifty years. Especially some parts of the Gingee and Kallakurichi taluks and some parts of the Cuddalore and Tirukkoyilur taluks have suffered badly. It may be that in the Chidambaram and Vriddhachalam taluks the crops are somewhat successful, due to the Tholudur and Veeranam-Coleroon projects and famine has not occurred there. This year has been a very bad year for South Arcot and urgent measures have to

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be taken to relieve the distress. I am not enamoured of the agitation for affording relief to the labourers, at any rate, in my district because there are schemes which give ample protection to ordinary labourers. There is the railway extension to be put up between Cuddalore and Vriddhachalam and the construction has begun in the Villupuram-Trichinopoly line. These give relief somewhat to the poor classes. But the lot of the poor as well as of big landowners is pitiable. I know hundreds of instances where people have spent all that they saved in manuring their crops this year with the hope that the north-east monsoon would be favourable to them. South Arcot is unlucky in that the people have to spend lots of money on manuring the wet lands. It is not the case in Tanjore and other districts. South Arcot spends large money in purchasing groundnut and other cakes. As we all know and as His Excellency has also referred to the scarcity conditions, I do not think that much is necessary by way of speechifying to convince the Government of the scarcity conditions. What is wanted in most of the districts, as Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar said, is the postponement of the kist so that remissions may be given effect to. Somehow there is an impression in the country—and I am giving this as my personal experience—that a district board president can put off the collection of kist and I am receiving ten letters every day asking me to put off collection. I have been replying that I had absolutely no authority in the matter and that the proper authority is the Collector of the district. In the circumstances, it is very necessary that the collection of kists should be postponed for at least three or four months this year.

"In this connexion, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to this fact that the Pennar basin has suffered very badly during the last few years, I do not know for what reasons. It may be due to the general scarcity of rain in the country. There is a talk, I know it has no basis, that the Kannambadi project has something to do with the scarcity of water prevailing in the Pennar. I am referring to the impression in the country. I am told Pennar can provide water for more projects. I am told by some engineering experts that there are some such schemes. This requires investigation.

"The next thing that I have to refer to is the preservation of cattle. Cattle have suffered very badly and unless some measures are taken to import straw, the consequences will be serious. South Arcot cannot boast of forests like Chittoor, Coimbatore and other districts and the post of forest officer has been abolished and South Arcot has been joined to Salem. Some measures should be taken to import straw and distribute the same at cost price to the various people who own cattle. People are beginning to sell cattle at cheap prices and this should be averted in the general interests of the district. It is high time that some measures are taken because I am told that the revenue officials are already pressing for the collection of kist and unless some move is made in the headquarters of the Presidency, I am sure Collectors and their subordinates will go on pressing the people and urge them to pay the taxes early. The ryots may have to borrow at high rates of interest. Therefore some urgent measures should be taken to see that such collection is not resorted to in this particular year and is put off for two or three months."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Sir, the resolution with the amendments that are being moved by two of my hon. Friends will both show that relief works will have at once to be started in seven or eight districts. By

itself the resolution would make it impossible to be given effect to immediately. But at the same time, Sir, I do not want to minimise the importance of the resolution and I appeal to the Government to take all the implications such a resolution contains. Firstly, Sir, the resolution, as it is, speaks of districts but certainly there are certain taluks in every district that have been very badly affected by the failure of rains. The rains have not been timely enough and the result is that all the dry lands at least to my knowledge in the northern districts have failed. This has been recognized officially in the crop reports published in the *Fort St. George Gazette.* I therefore request Government to take a serious view of the situation and do the needful in the matter. More than the failure of crops, more than the starting of famine works is the importance of the water scarcity that is felt in most of the districts of the north. In my district, Sir, Ganjam, I know there has been very great difficulty in nearly all the taluks of the district and if my recollection is correct I believe a similar representation was made by my friends who were coming with me from Vizagapatam. So, Sir, it will be seen that failure of rains is the sole cause of this water scarcity in most of the districts. I therefore request Government to make some contribution to the authorities in the district preferably to the taluk boards and union boards in the district to make provision for drinking water by excavating temporary wells in places
12-30 where they are greatly required. With this view, I have also given notice
p.m. of a question to my hon. Friend, the Chief Minister, and I appeal to the hon. the Revenue Member to take note of this and to request the Collectors and various district officers concerned to seek the co-operation of the local boards and supplement it with their assistance to meet the difficulties of the situation owing to the failure of the rains With these words, I support the amendment."

* Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" Sir, I wish to support the amendment that has been moved, and in doing so, I would endorse the statement that has been made by the hon. Member from Coimbatore. It looks as if it is not possible to say when an area is famine-stricken. Personally I may say that those who are not hide-bound by the Famine Code could easily distinguish when there is famine and when there is not. For others, the increasing number of beggars does not seem to indicate that there is famine in the country at all. Sir, it has been my experience recently in the Bellary district to find people saying, 'Sir, the Famine Code is like this; we cannot determine that there is famine in the area if there are more beggars in the streets'. Now, Sir, whenever there are people anxious to work and when there is no work for them, it is a sign that there is suffering in the country. Sir, since the introduction of this amendment, it seems very plain that a larger area than is contemplated is being affected by the scarcity of rainfall in this Presidency this year, and yet the reports appearing in the press do not indicate the distress actually happening. In our district of Bellary, you can find hundreds of people going from place to place with their wives and children, with their bag and baggage, 50 or 60 miles to find work, and coming back saying that they have not been able to find any work. Sir, if this is not recognized by the Famine Code as famine, I fail to understand what else is to be recognized as a famine-stricken condition. Sir, in determining whether there is scarcity in any area, there are two methods possible—one is a rough one, and the other one quite scientific. The first is to find out the people that move round the streets without work and infesting the labour markets, and also by coming

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into contact with the people in villages to determine how many people are without work. And the more scientific method is to find out by the rainfall reports what is happening in the country and then to determine the amount of crops that are actually growing. Sir, in assessing the rainfall it looks to me as if adequate consideration is not given to the distribution of rainfall in the seasons. In our parts, Sir, it is said that the Government rainfall measure is something far more than what we find by actual experience; the rainfall that goes without any effect is also counted as effective rainfall. Also, Sir, in the crop reports, it has not been all the while the custom to give the exact condition of the crop. It is clearly a guess work. I think it is proper that more active measures should be taken to make this work more scientific and not to depend entirely on the subordinates that make the report. I have known that in the United States they use the ryots as the proper people to make crop reports, and I think that system might be adopted here to supplement the reports that are given by the officials. The officials are not ryots and they do not know anything about the crops, and they might be misled as they were in our parts. The crops may be very very good in the beginning and they may be liable to failure at the end. It is also likely that these people would not be able to give an adequate measure of the crops when they are harvested. For these reasons, I think that in finding out famine conditions in any area it is better to take the opinion of the ryots and then, when their opinion is taken, to determine whether there is famine in the area. If there is famine, it is necessary that prompt action should be taken. I am glad to notice that the Famine Code provides that effective measures ought to be taken immediately so that people may not be put to great suffering. It is my experience at least, and I think it is the experience of hon. Members of this House, which I can easily gather from the number of resolutions and amendments moved to-day, that effective measures are not taken immediately. Sir, with these few words, I support the amendment that has been moved."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju:—"Mr. President, Sir, I did not intend to intervene in this discussion on this resolution, because I know the starting of relief works is certainly not a relief that is very much appreciated even by the famine-affected districts. The famine-relief works when started do not meet the needs of any district that is really famine-affected. According to the existing Famine Code, the relief given to the workers in the relief camps is quite inadequate, and it is only people that are afraid of actual starvation that resort to these places. As a matter of fact, such a state of things, in spite of actual famine, will not happen at this stage. Even in famine-affected areas, the actual want of food material will come up sometime later in the season. The resolution asks for the introduction of these famine-relief works immediately. But, as I said, I did not think of intervening in the discussion, but from the amendments proposed by the various gentlemen, I see almost every district in the Presidency where the crops are not satisfactory during the last season has been included. Unfortunately, my district, that is Vizagapatam, was not included. For that, it is not the other Members that are responsible but it is myself. So I am obliged to intervene in the discussion for fear that simply because none pressed for the inclusion of the Vizagapatam district it will be said that famine conditions do not prevail in Vizagapatam. Actually the rainfall was very very meagre during the last season in the Vizagapatam district, and all the dry taluks of the district have been affected, not only in small areas but in whole areas which

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mostly depend either upon rain-fed tanks or on shallow rivers which flow during the rainy season. No doubt there has been a total failure of crops there. If I intervene in this discussion, it is not with the object of pressing that famine-relief works ought to be started immediately, because, as I said, I have not much belief in the relief that is given to the people, but to see that these conditions in Vizagapatam are brought to the notice of the Government so that they may also realize that in almost any normal year the greater portion of the district will be more or less under famine conditions, owing to no proper arrangements having been made for irrigational facilities. After all, the relief that is wanted by this resolution is merely temporary. As a matter of fact, we have famine in the Presidency every year in some part or other, and in some years in the greater portion of the Presidency. The remedy lies in conserving the water-sources of those dry tracts where there are no perennial rivers.

"In bringing to the notice of the Government that famine conditions prevail in the greater portion of the Presidency owing to want of rains in the last season, we can also draw the attention of the Government to the normal condition of things in this Presidency with regard to irrigation. So, without exactly opposing the resolution of my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramachandra Reddi, so to say, I request that the Government will look far more ahead than by merely providing these famine-relief camps, which I know would be a failure unless official pressure is brought to bear to get people in."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"On a point of order, it seems to me . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Is it a point of order, or a point of personal explanation?"

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"A point of order more or less."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member may raise his point of order if he is sure of it."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"On the notice paper, it will be found that several hon. Members have given notice of amendments to the resolution moved by my hon. Friend on the other side. May I therefore in all humility request you to call out the names of such hon. Members in order before calling on other hon. Members to speak? That seems to be, with all due respect to the Chair I may say, in accordance with the general wishes of the House."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The amendment now under discussion is the amendment of Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti. If hon. Members are alert enough they will certainly catch the eye of the President."

Mr. K. ABDUL HYE SAHIB :—"Sir, much has been said about the famine conditions in the Presidency by several hon. Members in this House, and I do not consider that there is any further ground to be traversed by me in this direction. But I will be failing in my duty if I do not place before the House a few facts relating to the condition of the labouring classes particularly in the Ceded districts on account of the total failure of crops this year. As we all know, there has been an abnormal failure of the rains this year, and as a result the staple crops in the Ceded districts, namely, cholam, groundnut, cotton, etc., have failed completely, and the poor ryot has not been able to secure a quantity of grain greater than what is sufficient for the

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seeds. There are indications to show that, even according to official reports, a universal famine has developed, and there has been shortage of fodder, not to speak of a peculiar disease prevailing particularly in the district of Bellary killing all the cattle and leaving the ryot in more misery than ever. Thousands of agricultural ryots are seen going in batches in search of employment, but are thrown out everywhere. Fortunately, some are entertained in the Manganese mines working in the districts, but the number employed there is too small, and the rest have to wander about, starve and die. Even at this part of the year, when it was expected that the fields would look emerald green everywhere, they are presenting the gloomy appearance of the Sahara, and the owners have deserted them and gone away to eke out their livelihood elsewhere. The groundnut crop, which under ordinary circumstances would have fetched heaps of money to the ryots is not bearing any nuts and the cotton crop is still in a worse condition. The white cholam crop has withered away in its infancy, and is not even fit for being pulled off for fodder. The total yield of all these crops is not even one-fifteenth of what it used to be in normal years. While such are the conditions, the ensuing time for the collection of kists has been threatening the ryots to their wits end and they are simply looking stunned not knowing what to do, and how to pay the kists which are being collected regardless of bad season and the miserable circumstances to which they have been reduced.

"I do not know what the authorities think of the situation. In my 12-45 p.m. opinion, it is high time that they open their eyes forthwith and come to the rescue of the poor ryot before it is actually too late, lest he should die for want of a piece of cholam bread. Time has come for suspending kists or even granting remission of kists of this year and suspension of the collection of thakkavi loans and for granting fresh thakkavi loans and the starting of famine relief measures forthwith. The famine relief work should not entirely take the form of road making as is usually done, but a major portion of the fund allotted should be utilized in undertaking village works which will be a sort of permanent relief, although Government may think that village works cannot be undertaken for lack of proper supervision. This responsibility should not be shoved on the district boards as is usually done, as the district boards are either too poor to undertake them or have no sympathy with the poor ryots to spend their funds in this direction. All the measures that I now suggest are palliatives and will give immediate relief to the distressed and unemployed ryots. They do not however touch the root cause of the distress. The permanent cure lies somewhere else. Until such time as the various talks about the great Tungabhadra project have materialized into an accomplished fact, there cannot be a permanent relief to the poor Ceded Districts. Thanks to the sympathy of the Government shown in this direction, the project of the mighty Tungabhadra has already been on the list and the report of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee has now been finally approved. But when the sanction for the same will be accorded is not known and the public have been simply anxiously waiting to see when such a relief would come to them. The Government have been spending on temporary famine relief measures lots of money year after year, not to speak of the loss of revenue which has exceeded the cost of the project itself. The Mettur project has already been put into execution and why the Tungabhadra project with its ample resources has been delayed is a thing which I cannot understand. It is high time that the assurance of the hon.

the Law Member about this project (he is not here, else I would make a personal appeal to him) should be translated into action and I hope he will do something before he lays down the reins of his office to make the desolated Ceded Districts happy and contented, cherishing his name for ever."

* Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have also given notice of a motion pressing the claims of Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Madura. Now these three districts are included in the comprehensive resolution of my Friend, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti. I think it is better for me to say something on behalf of those districts.

" Yesterday my Friend Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar spoke of the Tanjore district being the pet child of the Government. I fear that that district is invested with a halo of false glory. In reality, as I hope to show presently, that district is regarded of all districts as the Cinderella of the Government. Before I say anything with regard to the three districts, I think I should fortify myself by making a few references to the general summary or abstract of season reports published by the Government. In the abstract of the season report for the week ending 25th December 1926, I find Madura bracketed with Bellary, Anantapur and Nellore. These are the words 'Outturn generally fair except in parts of Vizagapatam, Bellary, Anantapur, Nellore and Madura where it is poor to fair. Rain needed throughout.'

"In the district summary I find these remarks in regard to these three districts : 'Trichinopoly : No rain ; water-supply insufficient for irrigation ; state of season in some parts causing anxiety.' And for Tanjore : 'Water-supply insufficient for irrigation ; standing crops withering in parts for want of water ; prospects generally fair except in parts of Tanjore and other parts of the taluk ; rain urgently needed throughout.' Coming to Madura, I find these remarks : 'Standing crops generally fair, but crops withering in parts for want of rain.' All these three reports, I think, contain the same melancholy state of facts. Therefore it is clear from this abstract published by the Government that there are parts of these three districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Madura which have been very seriously affected by the scarcity of rainfall and crops in these parts are withering and that the distress caused by the failure of the monsoon and the withering of the crops is really very acute. I would ask the House to consider the fact that the ryots of Tanjore and Trichinopoly have to pay the enhanced resettlement rates. It is a great pity that the resettlement operations were commenced long before the havoc caused by the floods, long before these adverse conditions began to prevail in these districts. It is my firm conviction that if to-morrow the Government were to embark on survey operations with a view to settlement they would cut down the rates by one-half. Secondly, Sir, I would ask the House to consider the fact that most of the mirasidars and ryots in these districts, if not all, are very heavily indebted. I would support my statement with mortgage deeds and other documents to show that the indebtedness of the mirasidars and ryots is really appalling. These men have not only to pay the resettlement rates but they have also to pay the interest on the loans raised by them for clearing the deposit of sand and building houses on which they have deposited large sums of money, and also in the shape of higher wages to coolies because coolie labour was very dear, and loans to farm hands ; and where they have leased out lands they have to forego in many cases the stipulated lease amount and the varam. They have also invested large sums

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of money in the shape of purchasing agricultural implements and in the shape of cattle needed for ploughing their fields. Somebody remarked that in Tanjore and Trichinopoly people do not go in for manure as much as in South Arcot. But I can assure my hon. Friend that people there spend large sums of money in purchasing not only groundnut manure but all kinds of manures, and there are special depots where all these manures are sold. So people have invested large sums of money in the shape of manures. Sir, I must be fair and when I speak of distress in these districts I must make a distinction. There are certain portions of the districts where crops are fair and even good. But there are other portions of the districts where certainly famine conditions prevail. So there is need for investigation. In the resolution of which I gave notice to the House I have asked for an investigation by a committee composed not merely of Government officials, but of non-officials and officials in order to make the investigation thoroughly satisfactory. Let it not be thought for one moment that I distrust the ability and impartiality on the part of the Government officials. The fact is the Government officers do not directly and personally conduct the investigation. The Collector of a district asks his Revenue Divisional Officer to make the investigation and he in turn naturally entrusts the work to the tahsildar who in turn entrusts it to the revenue inspectors. Now the revenue inspectors have to carry on the investigation with the co-operation of the village officers. Now these people do not report the real truth lest they should displease their officers. In fact, they are afraid of giving in their reports the true state of things, the poor condition of crops and the distress of the ryots and the necessity for remission, with the result the Government insist upon the maximum collection of rent. On the other hand, I do admit that if the whole thing be left to the mirasidars they will try to exaggerate their own grievances or losses. So then a committee consisting of officials and non-officials will be the proper body to make the investigation and see that the investigation is not only thorough but satisfactory from all points of view. And in the meanwhile, while the investigation is proceeding, I will ask the hon. the Revenue Member to issue instructions to the heads of districts to postpone the collection of kist. Already the price of paddy is rising and people have hardly straw for cattle, especially in those areas where the crops have withered. And the committee appointed to make this investigation must set about their work promptly without losing any time. For only then they will be in a position to understand the real condition of the ryots and mirasidars in all these districts. Certainly, at a time when the people are confronted with this terrible spectre of famine, it is really very hard to compel them to pay the kist immediately, the first instalment in January and the second instalment in February. So postponing the kist collection and affording every facility to these people to pay kist by a series of instalments will really be very beneficial to them.

"I think, Sir, I have made out a case so far as parts of these districts are concerned, and I personally appeal to the hon. the Revenue Member to take into due consideration all these circumstances and see that an investigation is made of the actual condition of the ryots, that the kist collection is postponed and that remissions are granted on a very liberal scale."

*Mr. A. Parasurama Rao :—"Mr. President, at first I thought that I should not inflict on you and the hon. Members any tale of woe. We have been hearing it since yesterday. But the feeling which I have is so very intense that it must find expression ; otherwise it can never be satisfied. That 1 p.m.

is the reason why I am compelled to stand before you, even though you may consider it is an infliction, to state the very bad condition in which my district people and the people of the sister districts are suffering. My task has been rendered considerably easy by the appearance on the agenda of not less than eight resolutions bearing on the same point; and, if the ballot was more favourable, I dare say there would have been many more on this point. So, there is a general feeling common to almost all districts that there has been distress, that it could not be easily passed over, and that it requires the immediate attention of the Government. So, I shall confine my remarks to my district first. I say that when the districts of Tanjore and Trichinopoly which are considered to be the Eden of the presidency have suffered and are said to be suffering, my task is considerably easy. I say the least favoured by Nature herself is my district as well as other districts of the Ceded districts and they have been notorious for being famine-stricken. So, there is absolutely no necessity for me to labour hard on this point. I will simply give one or two instances to show how the officials have been apathetic and how they have been neglecting the districts which have been so notorious for their repeated visitations of famine. I will give one instance, Sir. There is one tank very near the railway line which, if you had travelled by that line, you might not have seen in the night. For this tank, the engineers thought that there was more necessity for letting out water than for letting in. They have not taken care to build any supply channel and yet they thought that two weirs were necessary and built them. Now, what is the result? For the last 14 years, from the accounts I have been able to get at, there have been remissions granted almost every year amounting to Rs. 16,000. Now, I ask the hon. the Revenue Member if any attention has been paid to such an unsatisfactory state of affairs all these 14 years. Accounts have been written from day to day by the Revenue officials and they have been apprised of the fact that remissions of about Rs. 16,000 have been granted for the last 14 years. What is the result? We are in the same position or, I may safely say, we are in a worse position. Because, it is not only the Government that is losing on account of these remissions, but the ryot is losing heavily on account of the deterioration in the value of the land. That is the reason why I say that the Revenue officers and the officers responsible for such a state of affairs ought to be more liberal. But from what I heard from the hon. the Law Member yesterday I feel considerably diffident of expecting any sort of sympathy from the Treasury Benches; because he was plain and he said: 'It is all a business concern: we invest so much and expect so much return.' When it is a business concern, the idea of humanity will be absent. Under these circumstances, I say it is very difficult to approach the Government. Yet, in spite of all that, we have to approach them and we have to depend upon their sympathy and co-operation. We appeal to them to improve this state of affairs.

"My next tale of woe is this: there is a taluk by name Badvel where for the last 20 years there has been a decrease of population as well as a decrease in the acreage under cultivation. Well, has anybody taken the trouble to understand why it has been so? I assert on the floor of this House that all this is due to the complete apathy and failure on the part of those concerned to take stock of the situation. So long as the revenues are collected, nobody cares and the officials are completely ignorant of what is going on. This is a tangible instance to show why people have left the taluk and have

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given up their holdings. All this is due to the want of irrigation facilities. If facilities for irrigation are given to them, it is not possible to believe that they would have left their homes and holdings.

"It has been said that there is the Famine Code and the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue and nobody can interfere. As for the Standing Orders, every one knows that it is a misnomer to call them Standing Orders. They are changing orders. Every day I find slips and corrections added to them. The rule-maker can break the rule and make another rule. If the Revenue authorities think that the Standing Orders ought to be changed according to the necessities of the situation they can do so. They should not plead that the Standing Order says so and so and therefore they cannot grant remissions. I say this particularly in the case of inams. It is said that inamdars are not entitled to any sort of remission because they pay a favourable rate of assessment in the shape of quit-rent. I cannot understand that. In good years they have been gainers and as a result of it they are not given this concession. I say that in years when there is such a severe famine and distress that they are unable to raise the necessary funds for the payment of quit-rents, it is not unfair to ask the Revenue authorities to suspend collection, and, if they are not prepared to remit the quit-rent completely, to request them to collect the amount in four equal annual instalments in good years. At least that concession can be given and the rules may not stand in their way. I daresay my hon. Friend the Revenue Member will agree with me and do this favour to the inamdars who are in such a state of distress in my district.

"Now, Sir, under the Land Improvement Act, loans have been granted. The instalment of the loan and the interest also are sought to be collected now when even the taxes for this fasli they are not able to pay. How can we expect them to pay up the instalment and other things. This is one of the matters which the hon. the Revenue Member can take into consideration in dealing with this resolution.

"It has been already stated that free grazing ought to be allowed. As for that, there can be no objection. I would suggest one other thing. From the beginning, at least for the last 20 years, we have been lulled into the belief that there is the Tungabhadra scheme, that there is something in store for us in the womb of the future. The Government have been pacifying us holding out promises and saying: 'You child, do not cry; there is the Tungabhadra scheme for you'. I know that the Tungabhadra scheme was investigated 20 years ago—a mere superficial investigation—at an initial cost of Rs. 2 lakhs. And with what result? Nothing came out of it. It was said that His Exalted Highness the Nizam would not grant the necessary concession for the construction of that thing. At about that time there was a large amount spent in the Punjab for the construction of a big scheme. From that date till now we are told that there is the Tungabhadra scheme awaiting construction. As against this promise there is the Mettur project facing us now. Every time the Tungabhadra scheme is hit on, some favourite scheme or other is taken in hand and all the available money is spent on it. This is how we have been lulled into the belief that we can get something favourable to us. Whatever that may be, I would request the hon. the Revenue Member to consider this thing particularly. So far as the Ceded districts are concerned, the Tungabhadra scheme is not going to help us in the near future. That being the case, will he divert his attention to other minor

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schemes, providing the necessary supply channels for the irrigation tanks and such other minor tanks as have fallen into disuse as only these will help the ryots who are in distress? It is not enough to say: "Well, we are going to investigate into the matter and referring it to the Engineering authorities.' That would not satisfy us. Unless and until a special engineer is deputed for the purpose with special instructions that he should report on the matter within a particular time, there is no knowing when the report will come to hand and when we will have the necessary relief. That should be the view which the Member in charge should take. With these few words I commend this resolution for the acceptance of the House."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, so far as this resolution is concerned . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"We are now on the amendment."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"So far as this amendment is concerned, there is no controversy at all. We weret hinking that the original amendment moved by Mr. Harisarvottama Rao did not go far enough. He wanted to confine his sympathy only to certain specified districts. He did so not because he had no sympathy for the remaining districts but that he loved more certain districts he had in mind. That omission has since been repaired by the hon. Mover of this amendment, viz., Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti. So far as the distress is concerned, it appears to be fairly universal. The district of South Arcot in point of revenue occupies the third or fourth place in the Presidency, the land revenue being about 58 lakhs. Except portions of tracts commanded by the Veeranam tank and some portions of the Tirukkoyilur and Cuddalore taluks which are commanded by the Tirukkoyilur and Cuddalore anicuts, all other portions depend entirely upon tanks and look up to the heavens for the purpose of receiving adequate supply of water. It will be within the recollection of hon. Members of this House that, depending upon some heavy showers which fell four days prior to the elections, the ryots put into the fields what little they had trusting to Providence and pinning their faith to the possibility or certainty of the north-east monsoon proving true and not playing false. But they were disappointed. Since the 5th November 1926 there has been absolutely no rainfall worth the name.

1-15 p.m. "I have received information from the interior from persons of various taluks. That information carried with it a melancholy tale. A large number of persons came to me and asked me to move the Collector in the matter. Fortunately for them, most of them called on me in the early part of January. The Standing Orders relating to remission of kist state that remission applications should be sent to the Revenue authorities before the 15th January. I advised them to file applications before time. Now I understand that a number of applications have been sent to the Revenue authorities and I have reason to believe that in some instances instructions have been issued to Revenue officers to knock about from place to place and to make a report to the Collector about the conditions prevailing in villages. But having regard to the limited agency at the disposal of the Government and having regard to the large number of applications that have been received, it is impossible in the very nature of things for this agency, however anxious and sympathetic it might be, to do full justice to the people. What this amendment requires is that not only the collection of kist should be postponed but also that remissions should be granted on a very large scale.

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Bare postponement is not likely to bring that measure of relief which we want as it will stave off for the time being the collection of kist alone but not the liability of the ryots to pay it about which we are anxious. Therefore mere postponement of collection of kist is immaterial to us so long as there is the certainty of collecting the amount. What we urge on the attention of the Government is that they should take stock of the situation and should go to the rescue of the ryots and make up their mind to grant remissions on a very large scale. If I remember aright, the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue regarding remissions lay down that remission will not be granted if there be more than one anna crop. I know for a fact that in 70 or 80 per cent of cases the yield of the land will not even cover the cost of cultivation and if the Government were to embark upon the policy of rack-renting it will be unjust. They must realize their position in the body politic that they exist for the people, and if the people find it impossible to make a living, and if the yield of the land is much poorer than what the ryots put on it, I ask is it fair for the Government to sit tight on the ryot and ask him to pay ? The ryot unfortunately falls between the land on the one side which has exhausted the slender resources at his disposal—that is on the one side—and by no means sympathetic and by every means the over-enthusiastic tax-gatherer on the other. Between these two—the lands on the one side and the greedy tax gatherer on the other—he finds himself hopelessly at sea and, if I may say so, he is between the devil and the deep sea. Is it not incumbent upon the Government and this House to devise the various means by which this distress could be got over ? I will only read a letter which has been received from a friend of mine that these village officers are busy in collecting the kist. The kist collection has commenced by the 13th of this month, and it is gradually finding its way into the coffers of the treasury. One gentleman, who is by no means pessimistic but who has taken the correct view of the situation, writes to me thus :—'Already the kist collection has commenced. The village officers are going about making demand and are making busy attempts to collect the kist. But it is a piteous sight to see the peasants' plight between a pitiless drought and equally pitiless tax-gatherer.' I lay stress on the words 'piteous plight' and I would particularly draw the attention of the House to this sentence. I do not think it will be possible for anybody to improve upon this. By no means can it be said that he has overdrawn the picture.

" Coming to the season report, this is what I find in the report for the week ending 15th January in the *Fort St. George Gazette* : 'Water-supply generally insufficient for irrigation in two taluks.' I do not blame the Government for this. But it is possible for the Government not only to postpone the collection of kist but also to make remission of kists. The report says 'the rainfall is insufficient except in Chidambaram taluk. Standing crops wither in parts for want of rain ; prospects not good '. That is the analysis of the situation in the district of South Arcot. So far as my district is concerned, there was a famine of an almost unparalleled magnitude in 1877. A pretty old man who witnessed the famine of 1877 assures me that in the present situation he sees unmistakable signs of similar famine overtaking us this year also. With that assurance before us, is it possible for the Government to sit quiet and tight without taking stock of the situation ? No doubt there are some rules in the Famine Code which are rigid. But as one hon. Member put it, there is nothing in the Board's Standing Orders which can

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be regarded in any way to fetter the discretion of the Government in a case of this unparalleled magnitude. So far as the Revenue officials are concerned, I think it is much better that the Government give a lead to the officers concerned to construe the rules very liberally and in a manner that will contribute to the general welfare. These Revenue inspectors, Tahsildars and Divisional officers, who occupy particular places in the official hierarchy, are afraid of granting remission lest the Government above should sit tight on them. I remember an incident which took place when I was a boy and that is this. The District Collector of Tanjore who granted remissions at that time—I think it was during Sir Grant Duff's Government (?)—was almost on the point of losing his appointment. One Huzur Sarishtadar and a Deputy Collector were sent away from their appointments and after persistent agitation both these officers were reinstated, and one gentleman in particular happened to be a member of this new Reformed Legislative Council. He came from Tinnevelly. His name is Mr. Shanmugam Pillai. It is true that much water has flowed under the bridge since then. In these circumstances, I sound a note of warning to this Government at this psychological moment and ask them to review the situation broadly and sympathetically not allowing themselves to be influenced solely by considerations of rupees, annas and pies. Let them realize that they do exist for the prosperity of the masses. Therefore I would urge upon the attention of the Government that the time has come for them to take the initiative in the matter and initiate means which will redound to their credit and go a long way to alleviate the miseries and sufferings of the people."

Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar :—" Sir, I am one of those who gave notice of an amendment to include Salem district also in the motion which is now under consideration. Now I see that Salem district is also included in the amendment proposed by my hon. Friend Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti and I think I can speak on that amendment. Mr. President, I do not think a long speech is required from me to support this amendment. It is a well-known fact that rainfall in Salem district is generally much less than in other districts mentioned now in the amendment. This year especially both the monsoons have failed and consequently all the crops have failed hroughout the district. On account of failure of rains for the last five years, the whole district has become practically dry and unfit for cultivation. All along hopes were held out to us by the hon. the Law Member that some water would be supplied to our district for irrigation purposes on account of the Mettur project. I was waiting here for some favourable reply from the hon. the Law Member to the adjournment motion on the Mettur project. Unfortunately, his reply was disappointing to Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly districts. Still I have some hopes that he will consider these districts and see his way to give some water at least to the Salem district so that relief might be given to some of the unfortunate and ever longing and famine-stricken taluks of this district. For want of sufficient rains and irrigation facilities in the district the ryot population, especially in the taluks of Attur and Rasipuram, have given up their agricultural occupations and have migrated to Natal and Ceylon and some other places, leaving their lands and houses in the hands of their creditors. It is a pity to see that a number of houses in some villages of the above-mentioned taluks are actually shut. I say this is not an exaggeration. The failure of crops is pressing the people on the one side and the scarcity of drinking water is pressing them on the other. Fortunately, the district board

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came to the rescue to some extent by providing new wells wherever necessary and by further deepening the wells where there is no water. But it is not possible for the district board to redress the whole grievance. So the Government should take urgent and immediate steps in this direction. Such is the condition of the district. What more proof is necessary to say that Salem district is famine-stricken? In view of this precarious state of affairs I request the Government to issue urgent orders to the head of the district to give liberal remissions and also to suspend collection of kist till a reasonable time. With these few words I support the amendment."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The adjournment motion for this afternoon will not be taken up and we shall proceed with the business on the agenda. The Council will now adjourn for lunch."

After Lunch (2-35 p.m.).

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"Sir, I move that the question be now put."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—"I second it."

The question that the amendment of Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti be included in the amendment of Mr. Harisarvottama Rao as amended by the amendment of Mr. Anjaneyulu was then put to the House and carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The amendment of Mr. Harisarvottama Rao as amended by those of the hon. Members from Guntur and Madras runs thus :—

> After the words 'famine-relief works' in the resolution as moved by Mr. Sarabha Reddi in the absence of Mr. Ramachandra Reddi, the following words shall be inserted, viz. :—
>
> 'and other famine-relief measures including the immediate postponement of collection of revenue for three months in the districts of Nellore, Anantapur, North Arcot, Chingleput, in the taluks of Bellary, Alur, Rayadrug, Adoni and Hospet of the Bellary district, in the taluks of Koilkuntla, Markapur, Pattikonda, Dhone and Cumbum of the Kurnool district, in the Ongole, Vinukonda and Palnad taluks of the Guntur district, in the South Arcot, Salem, Ganjam, Tinnevelly, Coimbatore (including the Kollegal taluk in particular), Tanjore, Ramnad,[a] Cuddapah, Trichinopoly and Madura districts, in the non-deltaic tracts of West Godavari and Agency tracts in East Godavari, and the remission of land revenue for the current fasli in these areas after due investigation.'

"This amendment is now before the House for discussion."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"I move that the question be now put."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I second it."

The motion was adopted and the amendment was put and carried.

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[a] This word was omitted in the motions as read but was added in accordance with the orders of the hon. the President on the last page.

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Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—"The amendment just passed does not fit in well with the resolution which has been moved by Mr. Sarabha Reddi. For the sake of convenience, I shall read the resolution in the way in which I want it to run after the amendment has been made :—

'*That this Council recommends to the Government that famine-relief works and other famine-relief measures including the immediate postponement of collection of revenue for three months and the remission of land revenue for the current fasli after due investigation, in the districts of Nellore, Anantapur, North Arcot, Chingleput, in the taluks of Bellary, Alur, Rayadrug, Adoni and Hospet of the Bellary district, in the taluks of Koilkuntla, Markapur, Pattikonda, Dhone and Cumbum of the Kurnool district, in the Ongole, Vinukonda and Palnad taluks of the Guntur district, in the South Arcot, Salem, Ganjam, Tinnevelly, Coimbatore (including the Kollegal taluk in particular), Tanjore, Ramnad,*[a] *Cuddapah, Trichinopoly and Madura districts, in the non-deltaic tracts of West Godavari and Agency tracts in East Godavari, be started by the Government.*'"

Mr. S. Satyamurti seconded the motion.

* The hon. the President :—"The resolution as amended above is before the House for discussion."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—"Sir, I feel grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on this resolution. I was absent yesterday and I thought I had lost an opportunity of presenting my case. Nellore is a very large district about 8,000 square miles in extent. Except the two taluks of Kovur and Nellore all the other taluks are dry taluks. Scanty rainfall is the cause of the famine in those taluks. There is famine in the north, famine in the south and in the west. The only prospect is the Bay of Bengal to the east. My hon. Friend Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar quoted figures showing the scanty rainfall in the various districts and Nellore is one of them. The rainfall recorded at the district and taluk headquarters is not always accurate; but in spite of this a perusal of the weather reports in the *Fort St. George Gazette* would show that the rainfall has been scanty this year. The condition of the crops is very very bad. There has been a total failure of crops in all the taluks except in the two taluks of Kovur and Nellore. Even in these two taluks there is no prospect of a second crop. In the dry taluks, the crops such as ragi, sajja and pedda cholam have all failed. The paddy crops have withered away or are withering away except in six or seven villages. Even there the yield has been very low. The whole of the Udayagiri taluk has dried up even a couple of months ago. In the Udayagiri taluk three-fourths of the tract has dried up; in the other one-fourth there is some cholam crop. But even that crop will not be realized to the full extent if there is no rain in the next week or two. In the Kavali taluk, except in the area under the Mopad project and a few other villages all the paddy crop has withered away.

2-45 p.m. "The population of those areas is starving. Even during ordinary years they have meagre means of livelihood in those dry areas. This year their condition is still worse. They did not realize any crop so far and it is very doubtful whether they can keep body and soul together for the coming 12 months without being shown some way for their livelihood.

[a] This word was omitted in the motions as read but was added in accordance with the orders of the hon. the President on the last page.

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"As regards cattle, they are dying on account of rinderpest. The Veterinary Department is not able to give any help worth the name. Added to this, fodder facilities have gone down a great deal. It is no exaggeration when I say that most of the cattle are living upon forest leaves and mountain grass. The ryots are put to great difficulties both on account of the crops not being raised and on account of the death of the cattle. The question may be asked whether famine conditions have set in. An examination of the situation will convince anybody that they have set in. The population is moving in search of labour from the dry taluks to the delta taluks. When the harvest was being reaped in those two taluks, hundreds of people migrated to the deltaic taluks.

"The situation is bad. Municipalities and local boards are actively moving in the matter. They have resolved to open grain-centres here and there to provide rice and other food-grains for the suffering people. The municipality has taken a lead in the matter. Several other taluk boards are going to discuss the matter. The Nellore municipality has resolved to open grain centres. Nellore district has felt the necessity of opening famine relief works. I would like to point out that the local boards are so very poor that they cannot provide adequate help to the suffering millions.

"I shall quote some of the normal, scarcity and existing prices of food grains. As regards rice, the normal price is 13 seers, average price is 10 seers and the scarcity price is 8 seers per rupee. The present price of rice is 3 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ seers. So also ragi. The normal price of ragi is 16 seers per rupee, the scarcity price is 10 seers and the present rate is 8 seers. As regards cholam, the normal price is 15 seers and the present price is only $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers. As regards *cumbu*, the normal price is 19 seers, average price is 15 seers, the scarcity price is 12 seers and the present price is $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers. This shows amply that with the rise in prices, famine conditions have automatically set in. I was told that the District Collector had taken steps to enquire into the matter, but I feel that an official report would have many shortcomings, because the biggest official in the district is naturally dependent upon his subordinates and those subordinates upon their subordinates. They do not usually report that famine conditions have set in because if any area is declared famine-striken, naturally they would have extra work given. That may be one of the reasons why they are shirking their duty. The revenue inspector is deputed to the work of collecting the information and he depends upon the indifferent karnams. Out of ignorance or indifference, they are reluctant to give the exact details of the situation. The result is that a defective report goes to the Collector. I therefore submit that a thorough enquiry should be made and such an enquiry will certainly convince the Government that famine conditions do exist in the district. I have nothing more to say on the matter than to invite the attention of the hon. the Revenue Member to the fact that the Nellore district stands on a different footing. In these circumstances I request the Government to accept the proposition and pass early orders."

* Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" Mr. President, Sir, I was one of those who gave notice of a motion to recommend to the Government to take immediate relief measures in the Ceded Districts on account of the failure of rains. I am glad to see that a comprehensive motion has been tabled giving us an opportunity of discussing the question of distress that is prevailing in the Presidency. But I am afraid that the way in which this resolution has been moved may

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not give us sufficient latitude either to include some portions or to exclude some others. The real difficulty is this. There may be here and there a few portions which cannot be brought under the exact scope of this resolution. But when the major portion of a district can be fairly included within the scope of the resolution, that is sufficient to give us an opportunity of discussing the resolution in general. I do not think I should add anything more as to the general condition that prevails in the Ceded Districts, to what has been already stated by my hon. Friend Mr. Harisarvottama Rao. One thing I want to impress on the Government and on the hon. Members of the Council is that the major portion of land in the Ceded Districts particularly in Cuddapah is rocky and gravelly which even during ordinary seasons cannot be expected to yield more than what is necessary for the sustenance of the population of those tracts. I am trying to confine myself to my own district leaving it to other representatives to speak about their districts. There is the black cotton soil portion. It is no doubt a bit more fertile than the other soils. But unhappily, the black cotton soil portion of the district is entirely dependent on rain, which is fickle-minded on more occasions than we expect.

"Another point which I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Members is that the number of pattadars who pay a land cess of less than Rs. 10 is more than that of the big pattadars. In my district, people who pay less than Rs. 10 constitute to nearly 70 per cent of the pattadars. The major portion of the population depend on a few acres, say 10 or 15 acres. Even during ordinary seasons when there is no failure of rains there will be very little left for the people even in very fertile portions of the district for bad seasons. To add to this, unhappily my district along with other districts has taken to certain habits which go to increase the abkari revenue and reduce income.

3 p.m. "My district is contributing a good portion of that revenue and the suppression or rather the extinction of the cottage industries which perhaps would have provided some means of relief during such periods has again contributed to the distress that is consequent on the failure of the rains. I cannot really claim, Sir, that all the parts of my district are equally affected. There are certain portions which are watered by the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal which cannot be said to require much relief at the hands of the Government. At the same time, Sir, I ought not to forget to bring to the notice of the hon. Member that even in those parts on account of the inadequate supply of water from the canal, a few acres here and there have been affected. Again, there are certain tanks in the district, particularly in the red portions of the district, which have received supply of water, though not adequate enough for the crops, and under some of these tanks crops have not altogether been a thorough failure; but at the same time they have not been good enough to maintain the people beyond want throughout the whole year. I would only give one instance: one of the tanks which have been referred to by my Friend, the Porumavilla tank, which is supposed to be one of our best tanks, has some supply of water, but I think even under this tank we have not been able to get more than half the average produce. Under the biggest tank, namely, the Badvel tank, under which there are nearly 3,000 acres of cultivation, there has been practically a thorough failure. That is the position.

"With regard to the dry soil there has been practically a failure of crops, of almost all the crops in most parts of the district. As regards groundnut which is becoming unhappily the main crop in the district, there has been a

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thorough failure. Probably the Government, with the ordinary reports that they get, are under a misapprehension as to the exact amount of the crop that we have been able to get. Here is a copy of the *Fort St. George Gazette* which, in surveying the position as to the amount of crop that the country has yielded this year, no doubt gives an impression that favourable conditions with regard to the crop have almost failed, but at the same time it says that the seasonal factor for the Presidency for both the summer and yearly crops works out to 86 per cent average, against 97 per cent in the previous year. I may say that in all the four districts the crop at the most would come to about 10 per cent and I am afraid that is the maximum. That is the position, Sir, of the crop which is now taking the place of almost all the other crops.

"With regard to cholam and other foodgrains, that also on the whole is a failure; but here and there we find a few villages—I am afraid there has been only one taluk—where there has been a very good crop of cholam; but generally there has been not more than 10 per cent. crop.

"With regard to cotton, on account of the scarcity of rain this year, I do not think there is any hope of getting any cotton in the district.

"Coming now to greater details with regard to the various taluks, I shall just try to give this information to the Government, so that they might be in a position to judge what exactly is the condition in our district, in local areas. With regard to the Rayachoti taluk, one half of it is not very bad, but the other half is really in very bad condition; and it comprises two or three firkas. So far as Sidhout is concerned, practically the whole taluk is affected, and one of the firkas is very much affected. With regard to Rajampet, I cannot say the whole taluk is affected, but one firka, I think Chitvel, and other portions are very badly affected. With regard to Cuddapah itself, I may explain that wherever there is the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal, there are not many portions which have been affected. As regards the Jammalamadugu taluk, the condition in one firka, Talamanchipatnam comprising 20 or 25 villages which I recently visited, is really very bad. Not only the labourers there but many ryots have no grain practically, and they are all suffering very much. The whole taluk is somewhat affected; and the taluk of Pulivendla which is supposed to be doing much better than the other taluks is equally affected—and I am afraid this has not come to the notice of the Government—except in some wet portions under tanks, near Pulivendla itself. Then with regard to the taluk of Kamalapuram, it is the only taluk which will not probably complain. Accidentally, on the day of the polling, it got a bit more rain than the other portions, and I think it is now well off except in a very few places. That is all the information I can give; but on the whole the districts are all very much affected. If the Government are going to advance the argument that unless the districts or particular portions of the districts come under the four corners of the Famine Code, it is not possible to expect any help from the Government, I believe, Sir, seeing the general conditions in the whole Presidency and in our districts in particular and at the same time having in view the fact that during favourable years there is really very little left for the ryots to store up for very bad seasons, it will go very very hard with the people. I hope the Government will revise their policy in the matter of giving famine-relief and will be inspired by a spirit of humanity and generosity, especially when it is so badly needed.

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I want to make a few suggestions, Sir, and if they are carried out and if proper instructions are issued to the local authorities, a good deal can be done in the way of relief to the people.

"I am afraid that usually the general impression people have with regard to the subordinate officials in the districts is that they are prone to underestimate the necessity for relief. There is an impression, rightly or wrongly, from top to bottom, from the village karnam to probably the Collector, that in this respect they ought not to give the proper estimate. It is not even a question of exaggeration, but it is not giving the true and proper condition of the people. My Friend, Mr. Ramachandra Reddi, expressed the view that the karnam is rather indifferent. I think he is not. No doubt he feels for the people and he knows the condition of the village in regard to the crop; but somehow there is the impression, as I told you—probably the next superior would be giving him instructions or would take him to task if he does not exaggerate the figures a bit—that when there is only one anna crop, he usually gives it as two annas crop. The general impression is that he even gives 4 annas. I have myself seen places where there was only one anna crop, but where it was put at 4 annas. Generally there is some exaggeration and the karnams do not give the actual condition. We are requesting the Government to suspend the revenue, if not to remit it. Suspension of revenue, I am afraid, will not be really of any use to the people, because we are not in a position to store enough in good years and so there is nothing really left, to enable us to pay the Government in succeeding years. However, when we cannot get much, we can at least ask for something, i.e., if we cannot get remission, we ask at least for suspension. Of course, remission is the only relief; but where there is no remission, let us at least get some suspension. I suppose it is an admitted fact—even His Excellency has admitted it—that the generel condition in the whole Presidency, particularly in our districts, is very bad. But if you look at the amount of revenue that has been paid into the treasuries as kist in January, you will probably find that it is really more than in very good seasons. What is it due to? It is due to the impression from top to bottom that all sorts of processes—may be quite legitimate, but still processes which are not ordinarily resorted to—are and will be resorted to in order to collect as much amount as possible in as short a time as possible so as to show to the Government that after all the districts are not so much affected as they were represented to be. I know that many village munsifs have come and said 'we had better resign our posts; then our troubles with the authorities will be over; but we cannot help it, we are asked to do it'. That is the state of things.

"The first thing that the Government can do is to send orders to the Collector and other authorities to really postpone collection and assessment and to investigate the real condition in the villages. That should be done at once. Then I just want to give my imperssion as to what would be the best shape in which the relief should be given. Whether really the district or certain portions thereof require relief or not, the Government can take certain measures which can easily benefit the people, in the way of providing more labour for the people who are mostly labouring classes. I think even the peasants will, in course of time, be prepared to undertake to do labour in the present circumstances. But the Government must change their vision. Hitherto they seem to have attached more importance to the Famine Code which stands in the way. They say 'if we undertake village works, it will

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be rather difficult to supervise' and things of that sort; but I believe that village works ought to be given more prominence in relief works than other general works such as constructing new roads and storing metal. In our districts we are all very poor. It might be possible for you to allot some amount for constructing roads; that money may as well be spent in the villages. The villages in our parts consist of black cotton soil and red soil. In red soil there is always the possibility of constructing wells. Advances and cheap credit could easily be given to the villagers on this condition that they should construct wells. Again, there is every possibility of clearing the silt in most of the villages in the red soil portions. Probably in parts of the black cotton soil it may not be quite so easy. Wells may not be required for irrigation purposes, and I am afraid it is not even possible to construct wells in the black cotton soil portions. As I have been frequently complaining in this House, we want water not only for irrigation but we want water for drinking purposes also. Unhappily, the policy of the officials has not been commendable and has only accelerated our difficulties in the black cotton soil areas in respect of drinking water by assigning lands useful for the construction of wells, etc. Now, there is an opportunity for the Government to construct wells, what we call the koneru wells or reservoirs, in those villages in which the people feel the necessity for drinking water not only for themselves but also for their cattle, if they have any sympathy for the people and the cattle. Otherwise, what will they do? I think that is the only useful thing which the Government can easily undertake.

"Then, Sir, with regard to pasture in the villages, I have already requested the hon. the Home Member for free grazing and I think he will be kind enough to communicate the suggestion to the officials. We want some grazing grounds. The officers will give us some difficulty in collecting green leaves for fodder. I hope the Government will take some steps to see that no difficulty is caused by the forest officials in the matter of giving green leaves to the villagers.

"One thing I want to bring to the notice of the Government is this. 3-15 p.m. They say that the Government might be easily prepared to advance loans under the Agriculturists Loans Act and the Land Improvements Act but the people are not so willing to come under them. This is the real difficulty. A number of ordinary pattadars have already come under the influence of the village bankers or sowcars and they are already indebted to them. The difficulty in the way of the Government and the ryots is this. If the Government is prepared to lend only a few rupees the sowcar comes and says 'unless you pay down the whole loan I am going to exercise my power, and I am not going to give you any more. You must pay down what you owe me now only'. The Government is not prepared to advance the full amount of the ryot's loan. So, although the Government is prepared to advance some sums under some conditions, the ryot is not in a position to take advantage of them because, if he is prepared to take the sum lent by the Government the sowcar comes and wants his amount to be paid at once. That is the difficulty. So I know a number of people who, although the Government is prepared to lend some money at cheaper credit and at a smaller rate of interest, are yet driven to go to the sowcar again. I therefore hope the Government will be in a position to devise some means by which this evil can be obviated. In this connexion, Sir, I just want to bring to the notice of the Government, having in view the incessant and almost permanent famines to which we have been subjected, that any relief that can be claimed under such

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circumstances would only be a palliative. If the Government really care for the welfare of the people, if they are really interested in the progress of this Presidency of which I believe our districts form a considerable portion, if they are interested not in mere calculations on each and every scheme that they think of, I think this occasion ought to be taken into account by the hon. the Law Member in bringing forward the irrigation schemes which are in view and which probably will go a great deal in obviating the necessity of often crying for help in this Council. Sir, in 1903 when the Irrigation Commission met and reported, the first thing they wanted the Government to take notice of was the undertaking of those large productive and protective irrigation schemes. If the Government had some vision and imagination to help people, if they did not merely calculate on mere rupees, annas and pies, I repeat again, if they had at heart the welfare of a large section of the people and a large tract of this Presidency more than the arithmetical calculations which I am afraid are sometimes wrong, we should not have been in this position and there would not have been any necessity for me to complain now. The scheme could easily have been taken up ; the money could have been got at very cheap credit—they could have got it at 3 per cent—and the scheme would have probably cost about ten crores. If the Government undertakes it now, it would cost about 30 crores. They could get the money at 3 per cent then, whereas they would have to pay 5 or 6 per cent now. I am afraid if the Government delays this matter any longer, if the Government persists in what I might call this foolish policy of theirs, a time probably will come when they will be driven to the necessity of spending not 30 crores but probably double the amount. I do not know about the rate of interest, but probably it would be more, or it may continue the same. It is often said 'we cannot find the money'. Sir, I have been complaining in this House a number of times that the Government is prepared to spend money if it comes to the conclusion that it is necessary for the purposes which it has in view. (At this stage the gong was sounded.) I am finishing, Sir. But when it comes to the villager they seem to be giving always one reason or another against it. They are prepared to spend on mere brick and mortar any amount of money. They are prepared to spend upon a hospital about 40 lakhs, but it is with great difficulty that we could get this Government to spend 4 lakhs for minor irrigation works. They are prepared to spend big amounts on salaries and can find money if necessary for it, but when it comes to the poor lot of the villager, all these calculations come in. So I hope, Sir, that the Government will revise its policy of spending money as to which ought to come first. They could spend lakhs for a building in Madras which I am afraid will be of no use in 10 or 15 years. I refer to the building of a Small Cause Court near the High Court. I believe if there is a will they could easily find the amounts necessary for giving relief to the poor people, and I hope they will do it before it is too late."

*The hon. Mr. N E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Mr. President, Sir, before I state what information we have concerning the state of the season and the measures that Government proposes to take in particular districts to relieve any distress that may have occurred, I would like to make a few general observations on the general agricultural season as the resolution is fairly comprehensive and embraces most districts of the Presidency. The first observation I would like to make is that in dealing with the question of relief on account of distress the Government is guided by the main consideration that it is incumbent on the State to take steps to avert the loss of human life

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which is likely to ensue if means of subsistence are not afforded to those affected. The measures of relief which Government take at times of distress are not directed and, I venture to think, cannot be directed to compensating the farmers of the country at large for any losses they may have sustained through bad seasons. We have to consider chiefly the case of those who but for Government intervention would or might be destitute. I do not mean to say that the Government should not do what it can to help those who are better circumstanced, but our prime duty which we must on no account lose sight of is what I have stated. The several Members who have spoken on this subject have more or less suggested a general economic enquiry into the condition of the ryots in different districts. No doubt, an enquiry of that sort might have its uses, but I venture to think it hardly comes within the scope of the present discussion which I understand refers to the present season and the measures necessary to alleviate any distress which may be impending or which may have occurred.

"Another general observation that I would like to make is that in considering the circumstances of any one agricultural season we must not forget what the preceding seasons were like, because they have an important bearing upon the resources of the people. Last season was on the whole a good one and one hopes to find some ray of encouragement in that. The condition of even the labouring classes is not so very bad as it would be if last year had been as bad as this year has proved to be. Further in the current season we should recollect that the south-west monsoon was on the whole favourable. It is on that monsoon that the bulk of the dry soils depend. Unfortunately the north-east monsoon on which depend the great bulk of the ryots' lands which are fed from tanks failed entirely in the northern districts and was a partial failure in the central and southern districts. When it became apparent that the north-east monsoon was not going to give us any more rain at the end of December we wrote to Collectors of most of the districts which have been mentioned in the motion before the House to report the state of agricultural conditions in their districts and the prospects of want among the small ryots and agricultural labourers and the need for relief measures. It is true that there has been instituted, after years of experience, an elaborate system of collecting information regarding the state of the season and for its periodical return to the higher officers of the Government so that the Collectors may be apprised of the earlier symptoms of failure and may take early measures to meet it.

"But the object of Government was to satisfy themselves that the 3-30
Collectors were watching the situation and also to get information as to p.m.
what the actual facts were. The reports that we received show that the Collectors have been watching the situation and have taken measures where they appear to be necessary to meet the local conditions One or two hon. Members who have spoken on this motion have deprecated the vague terms used in reporting news in official reports depicting the agricultural conditions. I would ask hon. Members to remember that it is very difficult in describing conditions over so extensive an area as one of our Madras districts to be precise without at the same time being misleading. Things vary a good deal in different parts and in summing up as they have to do in their weekly season reports the general position in the districts it is only natural that Collectors have to qualify their propositions with regard either to the goodness or the badness of the crops generally."

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Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I ask for information as to what the report contains?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I would deprecate any suggestion or any inference from the fact that these reports are not more positive in their nature. I would deprecate any inference that the Collectors have any desire to conceal or minimise any facts. I can assure hon. Members from the detailed reports received I have no reason to suppose that there is any such desire amongst them. I am quite certain that Government has no desire that they should in any way refrain from stating clearly what they think. I make those remarks with reference to what fell from more than one speaker regarding the nature of the official reports.

" Now when we come to the actual districts of the Presidency I propose to state what I have to say about each part separately. Taking first the Circars which comprises the districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, the two Godavaris, Kistna and Guntur, in these districts the south-west monsoon was equal to or above the average except in the extreme south. On the other hand the north-east monsoon was practically a failure. Before I go any further I should say that I exclude the deltaic areas which of course get their water from the great rivers and are not dependent on the rainfall. The result is while the earlier dry crops did fairly well the later ones have not done so well; they have not been an entire failure except in the extreme south of the area where the south-west monsoon yielded very little and the north-east monsoon practically nothing at all. The area which I refer to is round about Ongole. I won't confine it to the taluk because there are possibly some affected villages on the borders of the taluk and it is not possible to define the affected areas strictly to the geographical limits of taluks. I may say the Ongole area generally. There, there has been a considerable loss of crops; the yield has been very little. Another area which in the same way has suffered is in the neighbourhood of Kamavarapukotta in the West Godavari district. That area is not as extensive as the Ongole area and its proximity to the delta gives an outlet for its labour which the Ongole taluk does not enjoy to the same extent. In the other part of the Guntur district near Palnad and Vinukonda our information is although the crops cannot in any way be called good they have not been totally lost and the loss is not anything as extensive as in Ongole. I will state here what measures have been taken so far. I may at the same time refer to the remarks made by Mr. Venkatapati Raju. I agree with him that when it is a question of feeding people lest they starve that stage will not be reached so early in the year. Our object should rather be now to take such measures as to prevent that stage being reached. In Ongole and of course throughout the whole area of the Circars there will be a large remission of the assessment upon tank-fed crops. That would of course be granted in any case. But in Ongole the collection of assessment for the dry area is being postponed. The Collector is examining the matter, village after village, and he has already postponed the collection in 65 villages. There are about 100 villages or so in the taluk. Hon. Members are aware that Ongole is the home of the Nellore cattle and it is the tract of country between Musi and Gundlakama where the Nellore cattle are produced. Therefore the provision of fodder for these cattle is the most important consideration in these tracts. The Government have granted the usual railway concessions according to a scale which was fixed by the Government of India in consultation with the Railway Board

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some years ago. In addition to that, loans of course are being given freely under the Agriculturists' Loans Act for such of the bigger ryots as undertake to find employment for their neighbours. And most important of all, we wish to expand the programme of local board works if local boards will send up applications by giving them funds to spend on local works of utility. Government think that is much the better way of meeting the situation than by waiting till the time is ripe to open relief works as the money will be more usefully spent and the needs of the situation met more effectively.

"Lastly there is a project for a District Board Railway from a place near Guntur to the Palnad taluk. The Agent of the Southern Mahratta Railway has telegraphed to his Home Board for sanction to be given to the work and we hope this will be received very soon and arrangements are being made for land acquisition. Most of the land the railway will traverse is waste and we hope to get that work started before long. If that is started, it will of course give a very large amount of employment to local labour.

"The next area of the Presidency to be considered is the Ceded districts. In this area again they had a good south-west monsoon. But in the black cotton soil taluks which comprise the Rayadrug, Bellary, Alur, Adoni taluks in Bellary; Gooty and Tadpatri taluks in Anantapur and Pattikonda in Kurnool the sowing of cholam and korra were begun rather late. The failure of the north-east monsoon resulted in the entire failure of these crops.

"The collection of kist has been postponed in the areas I have mentioned. 3-45 p.m.
There again works under the district board are being started and if they are prepared to start more, Government will find the money for further works if necessary. We will also give extensive loans under the Agricultural Loans Act.

"In the case of the Kurnool district the report has not disclosed any considerable loss of crop or large unemployment. Having regard to what fell from the hon. Member for Kurnool who spoke here, I am calling for another report from that district with reference to what he said.

"In Cuddapah, the report we have received shows that the dry crops have yielded generally well except in two firkas to which I think Mr. Koti Reddi referred, viz., Talamanchipatam firka in Jammalamadugu taluk and the Obulam firka in the Siddhout taluk. But generally throughout the district, the Collector does not anticipate any need for special relief measures as yet.

"As regards the other districts of the Presidency, the reports are to the effect that dry crops have nowhere failed completely, or to any large extent, although of course they are not up to anything like what they would be in a good or average year. There has of course been extensive loss of wet crops, and for this remission is given as usual. Orders have been issued that no collection of assessment should be made of amounts likely to be remitted. The total amount of such remissions is estimated at Rs. 13¼ lakhs, and it will probably be more. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: For the whole Presidency?) That is practically throughout the Presidency. Personally I think from the reports I have received, it is possible that the remissions will be more than that, because these are only preliminary reports made without full investigation.

"That is the general position. I should like to say a few words about the recommendation that has been made that there should be a wholesale postponement of revenue collections. In the first place, it does not seem to

me that it would be calculated to benefit the labourer who is our special concern. It might of course be of some benefit to the small ryot. Yet, I would invite attention to the fact that it would probably have the effect of not bringing in grain stocks that would otherwise be coming into the market, and thereby probably of raising prices still higher. That might benefit the man who has any stock of grain but it would be to the general detriment of the agricultural population because rise in prices would affect the labourers, and the result might be disastrous. I do not know if there are any questions about particular districts that I have omitted. If I have any intimation with regard to them, I shall be glad to refer to them."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" About North Arcot ? "

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" About North Arcot, the report is : dry crops have been very fair and it is only wet that have failed and they will get remission."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" Tanjore ? "

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" The report is that the first crop is very good and that very high prices are being realized. But the second crop has failed in certain parts, and that remissions there amount to something like a lakh of rupees."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : —" Coimbatore ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" In Coimbatore again, there is not a special loss of dry crops. The part that is suffering is Kollegal, and I am calling for a special report about Kollegal as the loss reported is of wet crops. The report about the dry crops is not clear."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Salem ? "

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I am sorry to say there is nothing gloomy reported about Salem." (Laughter.)

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Chingleput ? "

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" In Chingleput, there is a considerable loss of paddy which comes in for remission. The dry crops are said to have yielded not very well but something."

* Rao Bahadur K. SITARAMA REDDI :—" South Arcot ? "

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" About South Arcot, the report is generally to the effect that a very fair crop was obtained from dry crops. There again, there has been a general loss of crops under tanks, and it will of course get remission.

" With regard to the general wish of the hon. Members that remissions should be liberally granted, I propose to issue general orders that the rule as to constructive total loss—the one-anna rule to which reference has been made, should be liberally construed seeing that the loss of the tank-fed wet crops has been so extensive this year "

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, the hon. the Revenue Member told us in reply to my query what the state of Tanjore is and that report states that the first crop was very good, and as regards the second crop it is an absolute failure."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Not an absolute failure. Failure only in certain parts of the district. They had good rains in other parts."

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* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" Rather too much rain ! As regards the first crop there seems to be a good deal of misapprehension, and I think I may clear the situation and wait for a further answer from the hon. the Revenue Member in case he chooses to make a reply. We must first of all be clear as to what exactly the first crop is. In the Tanjore district, as I daresay in all other districts where paddy is cultivated, more than 70 per cent of the lands cultivated are single crop and in about 25 or 30 per cent you have two crops. As regards the lands on which two crops are cultivated, the harvesting of the first crop takes place in the months of September, October or November, and the second crop cultivation begins after that and the harvesting is done in February or March. That is as regards 30 per cent. of the lands. As regards the remaining 70 per cent of the lands, the first crop cultivation—there is only one single crop—begins about August or September and continues till October also, and the harvesting begins in January or February. The hon. the Revenue Member told us that as regards the first crop it was a good crop in Tanjore. May I ask the hon. the Revenue Member to make clear to me and to this House whether he means by the first crop the first crop of the double crop lands, or the only crop of the single crop lands ? This is the question which I put to him, and if he says the latter is also included, I must beg to differ from him and say that the report is entirely absolutely wrong. For as regards lands on which a single crop alone is cultivated, I have had reports from various taluks which show that in one taluk alone, viz., the Nannilam taluk, the first crop, that is with regard to land on which a single crop is cultivated, has yielded not more than 70 per cent and in other places it was as low as 30 or 35 per cent. I have got a list of villages which I probably may refer to, and as regards which the hon. the Revenue Member may call for reports if he thinks there is anything wrong in that. For instance in the Nannilam taluk in the village of Perumaniyur the yield is 75 per cent first crop, I mean the single crop : in Sengalipuram 30 per cent ; Semmangudi 50 per cent ; Neikuppai 50 per cent ; in Karimanur 75 per cent ; in Katur zamin 25 per cent ; in Tirukannapuram 25 per cent ; in Ammayyapatti 25 per cent ; in Manakkudi 25 per cent ; and there are a number of other villages also in which the yield ranges between 40 and 50 per cent. As regards the Kumbakonam taluk, I have been to the Mirasidars' Conference at Kumbakonam, and what took place there is reported in the newspapers of yesterday and day before yesterday, and many people told me that in some villages the yield of first crop, single crop, was not more than 40, 50, 60 or 70 per cent, so that if the report of the authorities concerned be as regards the first crop, the only single crop, that it is very good, I must say that the report is absolutely wrong, and is based on an entire misapprehension of what the first crop means.

" Now I wish the House to consider exactly what the situation is, how it 4 p.m. was caused and what the remedies ought to be so far as the Tanjore district is concerned. It is true that the south-west monsoon was good and we all expected a good first crop. So far as the double crop land is concerned, the harvesting ought to have been done in October or the beginning of November. Unfortunately there were torrential rains which very much retarded the harvesting of the first crop, so much so that lands which would have yielded a bumper crop were not harvested at the proper time. Even on lands where there was a very good crop, the ryots were able to to realise only 60 or 70 per cent of the actual yield. The hon. the Revenue Member also knows that the second crop cultivation on the first crop land has

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to begin as soon as the first crop is cut. But owing to heavy rains and owing to drainage difficulties it was not possible to drain these lands, and the cost of cultivation was very much higher than usual. Owing to these heavy rains and the unfortunate seasons which followed in November when there were not any rains or floods, the second crop was an absolute failure in most of the places. There may be some low lying villages which are flooded in normal seasons and where water may be found even in times of scarcity where there may be a good crop. Probably that is the reason why the hon. the Revenue Member said that in some parts the double crop was good. I may say that in all normal areas where two crops are expected every year, the second crop has been an absolute failure in most of the villages. Probably there may be stray cases in which my statement may not hold good. I may say that in 90 per cent of the villages the second crop is an absolute failure. So that the statement that the first crop is good has to be qualified by the statement that owing to bad season and the difficulty of harvesting, the ryots were able to realise only 60 per cent or so of the harvest.

"As regards the first crop on single crop lands—that is the crop to be harvested now—cultivation begins as I said, in September or October and harvesting in January or February. For the last two months there have been no rains or floods. I do not know if it is an absolute failure in some cases. In some cases I know it has gone down so low as 30 per cent. In some places it may be 80 per cent. So that there is no normal crop as regards the single crop lands. I wish the hon. the Revenue Member to correct me if in my statement there is any mistake, or if he can correct me later on I shall be much obliged to him.

"The hon. Member Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, who represents both the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts, referred to the actual conditions in some portions of Tanjore and also referred to the season reports in the *Gazette*. I do not think it will be necessary for me to refer to them also. As I said, in the beginning of November there were abnormal rains in the Tanjore district, I may say in the whole of the Tanjore district. I may draw the attention of the hon. the Revenue Member to the actual damage that was done by the rains and what happened in a particular village called Kurungulam. The rains began there at 7 o'clock on the 7th November and in two or three hours there were torrential floods in that small rivulet which ran by it and the whole village was washed away. Houses, livestock and moveable properties were all washed away and the damage was estimated at about Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000. I also heard from the ryots of the village that nothing has been done by the Revenue authorities to compensate them for their loss or to relieve their grievances. There may be other villages like this which have similarly suffered. I have personal knowledge of the state of things in this village. So to say that the first crop is a bumper crop is not a correct statement.

"The hon. the Revenue Member told us that Collectors would take steps to start relief measures wherever necessary. May I in this connexion say that in seasons like this, when the ryots are not able to realise a good crop, it is necessary to relax a bit the collection of revenue. Under Board's Standing Order No. 14, it is not necessary that there should be any remission application, any formal application, for the purpose of suspension of the collection of kist. When in seasons of exceptional drought or failure of rains there has been a general failure of crop, the revenue official should

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take the initiative and make the necessary arrangements as soon as the unfavourable character of the season is declared. He should make a thorough inspection of the crops and submit proposals for remission of revenue for the consideration and orders of the Board of Revenue or Government. So the duty lies on the part of the Government in the first instance to take the necessary steps for the purpose of suspension or remission of revenue and the Government cannot say that they have received no remission applications. So I request the hon. the Revenue Member to issue instructions to his subordinates with a view to a liberal grant of remissions.

"The hon. the Revenue Member also referred to a remark of the hon. Member from South Arcot, Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar, that remission has to be granted on one anna crop. This one anna crop is a mystery to me, and I am not perfectly sure whether the hon. Member has realized the full import of it. Board's Standing Order No. 14 does not refer to one anna crop or two anna crop. It says that when the yield is between half and one-third of the average yield, i.e., below 50 and above 33 per cent, remission will be granted to the extent of 25 to 50 per cent, when it is between one-third and one-sixth a remission of 50 to 75 per cent, if it is one-sixth or less, a remission of 75 to 100 per cent. I am told by the revenue officers that a twelve anna crop is said to be a normal crop for calculating remission, and a one anna crop must be about one-twelfth of the crop. But the Board's Standing Orders provide for remission when there is a larger crop than one anna crop, if I understand them correctly. Even if it is six annas or 50 per cent crop people are entitled to remission. If the Standing Orders are liberally construed, even for half the crop half the remission will be made though not full remission. In the Tanjore district, owing to the abnormal floods of 1924 which caused a devastation in the district, the good crop of 1925 could not have enabled the ryots to get over their distress. They cannot get over their distress for ten years to come. Many of them have lost their lands and their property, and are in very distressed condition, and the crops of 1925 would not enable them to get out of the distress caused by the floods of 1924. Apart from the question of any remission or suspension of revenue, there is one further aspect which is more important in the case of ryots big or small. The revenue officers are very strict and demand the revenue within the 5th or 10th. They ought to be very liberal in this matter. In normal times the ryots may be expected to pay the revenue. One instance as regards the rigorous collection I will refer to, and I trust this will not be repeated by the other revenue officials. One Tahsildar (I do not think it necessary to mention to the House the name of the officer but I will mention it to the hon. the Revenue Member if he wants to know it) has issued instructions to the village officers that all kists should be collected by the 10th January. If it is not paid by that time, the village officer must apply for demand notice and before the 13th the attachment should be made. The attachment account should be sent to the Tahsildar's office and the sale fixed on the 13th. If any village officer fails, it is said he will be made responsible; I do not know what punishment is to await him, whether he will be made responsible for the money, or will be dismissed or proceeded against criminally or civilly or morally—I am not able to say what. According to this Tahsildar's instructions, the first instalment fell due on the 10th January, whereas on the 10th January the harvesting of the single-crop lands has not taken place. Any tax due could have been paid only out of the harvest of the first crop on double crop lands. Ordinarily the landholder

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does not have much of double crop lands and what first crop then was on the lands has been seriously damaged by rains. How then could the ryot be expected to pay this first instalment of one-fourth of the revenue? And if he does not pay he runs the risk of having his property sold. The village officer has to obey the orders of his superior officers and so has to be severe in his collection work and force the ryots to pay by any means. I hope that this instance will give the hon. the Revenue Member an idea of the rigour that is being exercised in the districts in the collection of taxes, and I request he will issue instructions to his revenue officers to be less rigorous in their collection of tax from the ryots.

"There is one other thing which I have already referred to and it is this. I referred to the floods of 1924. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. the Revenue Member and the hon. the Irrigation Member also to the fact that the tanks and canals in many of the villages have not been repaired and the irrigation works have not been restored, so that even if the seasons are good many of the villages are not properly irrigated owing to the defective conditions of the irrigation works caused by the floods. In some villages in Tanjore, in Koviladi, for instance, it is not possible to conserve water and take it to the fields. As regards those fields, greater concession ought to be shown and remission should be granted. So that I would say that the Government and the hon. the Revenue Member would do well to call for fresh reports from the Collector and advise him to make further investigation in the light of the facts I have placed before the House. If any more information is required by the hon. the Revenue Member, I will get it and furnish him. I wish very much that the Collector should be instructed to exactly know what the situation is in the various taluks and to issue orders to the tahsildar of each taluk to ascertain exactly what the relief required in each taluk is instead of making general statements as 'generally good' and 'generally bad'.

4-15 p.m. "I submit therefore that as regards the second crop there ought to be remission of the second-crop assessment on almost all the lands. As regards the first crop, I need not repeat again. I have already stated what ought to be the remission. Remission so far as it deserves ought to be given and the rigour of collection ought to be relaxed a great deal in the case of all these. With these few words, I request the hon. Member to make a statement if he can at present as regards the present condition, or issue instructions later."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—"I propose, Sir, that the question be now put."

Mr. K. R. Karant :—"I second it."

The motion for closure was adopted.

The hon. the President :—"The motion as amended reads thus :

'*That this Council recommends to the Government that famine-relief works and other famine relief measures, including the immediate postponement of collection of revenue for three months and the remission of land revenue for the current fasli after due investigation, in the districts of Nellore, Anantapur, North Arcot, Chingleput, in the taluks of Bellary, Alur, Rayadrug, Adoni and Hospet of the Bellary district, in the taluks of Koilkuntla, Markapur, Pattikonda, Dhone and Cumbum of the Kurnool district, in the Ongole, Vinukonda and Palnad taluks of*

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the Guntur district, in the South Arcot, Salem, Ganjam, Tinnevelly, Coimbatore (including the Kollegal taluk in particular), Tanjore, Ramnad,[a] *Cuddapah, Trichinopoly and Madura districts, in the non-deltaic tracts of West Godavari and Agency tracts in East Godavari be started by the Government.*' "

The motion was adopted.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" May I respectfully draw your attention to the fact that on a suggestion of my Friend, Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar, the Leader of the Opposition was good enough to include the district of Ramnad? Now, I find, if I am not very much mistaken, that Ramnad is not included in the resolution read out by you."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think it is too late for us to mend matters." (Laughter.)

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" The word omitted is ' Ramnad '."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is a fact that it was omitted. But I read the resolution as amended to the House before the debate on it was opened and before I called on the hon. the Revenue Member to reply and none of the hon. Members pointed out the omission. I do not think that as the resolution has been put to the House, anything can be done now. I hope the hon. the Revenue Member will note the omission that crept in."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I rise to a point of order. Supposing a word is omitted from a resolution passed by the House, could it not be supplied ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I may say that no district in the Presidency will suffer by reason of the inclusion or omission." (Laughter.)

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to decide the point of order. I have nothing to do with the question whether the districts suffered or not. The point for consideration raised by Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar is whether an accidental omission in a resolution can be rectified by effecting a correction. It requires careful consideration and I shall give a ruling later on."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Thank you, Sir."

AMENDMENTS TO THE FAMINE CODE.

The KUMARA RAJA OF VENKATAGIRI :—" Sir, I move

' *That this Council recommends to the Government that the following amendments may be made to the Famine Code in order to facilitate the execution of famine-relief works by the zamindars and landowners* :—

' *Insert the following after section* 179 :—

" 179-*A*. *In cases where any zamindar or landowner is called upon to execute any works for the relief of distress with reference to section* 21 (*a*), *the Collector shall, on the application of such zamindar or landowner, arrange for the grant of such a loan as may be required to carry out such works.*"

[a] This word was omitted in the resolution as read but was added in accordance with the orders of the hon. the President on the last page.

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'*Add at the end of section* 180 (*a*)—

"*In cases falling under section* 179-*A*, *the loans advanced shall carry interest at a rate not exceeding three per cent and shall be recoverable in not less than five annual instalments.*"'

"Sir, the Council has rightly come to the conclusion on the previous resolution moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Ramachandra Reddi. In such a famine year, Sir, the Government with their innumerable resources will have every facility to carry out famine-relief works. I move this resolution with a view to give facilities to the zamindar with his limited resources to open similar famine-relief works. The famine policy of the Government seems to proceed on the assumption that when such conditions prevail the zamindar should undertake to some extent the relief of distress within his estate or parts thereof affected. There is no statutory obligation on the part of the zamindars to undertake relief works. It is purely a voluntary endeavour on the part of the zamindars. Section 21 of the Famine Code says that the Collector shall call upon the zamindars to send their famine programme annually and come to some agreement or understanding as to the extent of their responsibility for the cost of such famine works. It is obviously as a matter of administrative expediency that these undertakings are obtained by the Government from the zamindars. The zamindars also view it more as a philanthropic work than as one which either morally or legally they are bound to do in the ordinary discharge of their duties. When rains fail and adverse seasons contribute to the total failure of the crops in wet areas, the zamindars out of considerations of mercy and humanity generally grant remissions on wet assessments, though it must be noted that the ryots cannot demand it as a matter of right. Relief operations which are intended for the relief of distress are altogether out of the sphere of legal obligation arising out of the relationship between the tenant and the zamindar. Relief of distress under these conditions is the chief duty of the Government and, if the zamindar or landowner is to be called upon to carry out relief works, it must be considered purely as a philanthropic work but not as one which he is legally or morally bound to do. Independently of these considerations of responsibility, moral or legal, adverse seasons cripple national resources by affecting the recovery of his dues. In most cases the zamindars will be willing to undertake these works most cheerfully, but they cannot do it if the Government does not give them adequate financial aid. The position of the Government is altogether different. If one district fails, it has got other districts and provinces not to speak of other resources to fall back upon. It must also be taken into consideration that these works are such that they will not be undertaken in normal years. They are costly works for which in normal years there is no necessity at all from an administrative point of view. It often happens in most cases that there will be other works of an urgent character which the zamindar consistently with his duty to his ryots cannot put off. Neither can he with his crippled resources at the time of famine carry out simultaneously such urgent works as are entered in a famine programme which entail heavy expenditure and for which as has been already pointed out there is no pressing necessity.

4-30 p.m. "So, Sir, it follows that when he is called upon to undertake this work and when famine is declared, he will be unable to undertake such works without Government's financial aid. The grant of loans is dealt with by sections 179-183 of the Loans Act. There is no direct provision for the

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grant of loans to the zamindars. Section 180-B which contemplates grant of loans to landowners for their execution of private works does not cover the zamindar. It is not clear whether the word 'landowner' in section 180-B covers the word 'zamindars'. The section says 'Grants of State aid to landowners only'. I cannot too strongly emphasise the need for the Government financing such endeavours as the carrying out of famine works.

"Then, Sir, there is section 179 which provides for small loans for individual benefit. Of course that would be sufficient in a particular year of distress, but large loans required by the zamindar or the landowner for the comprehensive benefit of the whole community ought to be viewed with greater favour and must be granted compulsorily by the Government. So, Sir, what I ask on behalf of the zamindars or rather those who have to undertake these works is only a loan and not a free grant and that too for the performance of a duty which the Government have to discharge. It is hardly necessary for me to point out that the advantages that accrue to the Government by rendering financial aid to the zamindars are many, because, unlike funds expended by Government on their works which will be mostly unremunerative, though they may be necessary and beneficial to the public, the money borrowed by Government at a higher rate of interest and lent to the zamindars at a lower rate, will be recoverable. There is also this additional advantage, namely, that the Government will be relieved of a substantial portion of their legitimate responsibility. The famine works undertaken by the zamindar will, in most cases, be irrigation works and it is unnecessary for me to show that the benefits arising therefrom will altogether filter down to the tillers of the soil and tend to the promotion of their economic welfare. I must not omit to point out that the resolution I move, though in its outward shape may appear beneficial to the zamindar, is essentially one calculated to benefit the ryot ultimately. That, Sir, I would point out is the ultimate object of the resolution.

"Then, Sir, my resolution fixes the maximum rate of interest to be 3 per cent, and the annual instalments to be 5 at the minimum. This may appear as unreasonable on the part of the zamindar to expect, especially when the Government draw at a higher rate of interest. As to this I contend that those who have to undertake the famine works have every right, a just right, to expect money at such a low rate of interest in view of the fact that it will bring back the capital unlike other Government works, that these works are of a philanthropic nature, and that if they are undertaken by the zamindars would tend to relieve a very substantial portion of Government's responsibility. With these few words I commend my resolution for the unanimous acceptance of the House, acceptance not only by the non-official benches but also by the Treasury benches. Such acceptance will give encouragement and enthusiasm to those who have to undertake such works especially at a time when their financial resources are crippled by adverse seasons."

* Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—"I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution. Usually the budget of the zamindar in an ordinary year closes with a nil balance. And in a famine year with all his expenses which he incurs on behalf of his tenants, his budget ought to close with a minus balance. In these circumstances, one cannot very well do all that one wants to do on behalf of the tenants. The amendment proposed in this resolution will certainly have a far-reaching effect, because as soon as the zamindar thinks of attending to the wants of the ryots, the latter will have greater confidence in

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the zamindars, and the dispute between the zamindar and the tenants will be reduced to a certain extent. This resolution shows a real awakening on the part of the zamindars and, coming as it does from a big zamindari like that of Venkatagiri, it shows how far the awakening will help the tenants also ultimately. The status of a zamindar is a magnified status of a landholder. When concessions are afforded to a landholder during famine time, I really do not see any reason why the same concession should not be extended to a zamindar also. The concessions that are suggested in the present resolution are not for his personal benefits, are not for the increase of his luxuries, but they are for the benefit of his tenants. In this connexion I would also point out that by this measure the zamindar does not want a free grant of loan. He wants the loan on certain convenient conditions which the Government may extend to the zamindar. I think this resolution will have very far-reaching effects and I commend it for the acceptance of this House."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" My first amendment is

> '*For* the words " a rate not exceeding 3 per cent " *substitute* the words " the rate at which monies are lent to local bodies ".'

" I have got another amendment with regard to the period and it is this—

> '*For* the word " *five* " *substitute* the word " *fifteen* " .'

" These are the two amendments that I propose to this resolution. I am quite sure the Government will not be able to lend money at a rate not less than 3 per cent. The usual rate now-a-days is 6 per cent. Even when monies are lent to local bodies the usual rate is 6 per cent and not 3 per cent. If really the zamindars want to do any good to their tenants the resolution when passed must be in a form which will be acceptable and which will be effective.

4-45 p.m. " If we agree that the money may be lent to the zamindars who undertake famine-relief works at a rate of 3 per cent, I do not think that Government will be able to find the necessary money."

The KUMARA RAJA OF VENKATAGIRI :—" The landowners are poor."

* Mr. K. V .R. SWAMI :—" Of course the hon. Member, the Kumara Raja, may say that the landowners are poor and they are in a penniless condition, and cannot afford to pay the usual rate of 6 per cent on the money lent to them for famine-relief works. I hold a different opinion in the matter. The object with which the hon. Member has proposed to amend the Famine Code is indeed very laudable although I am not able to agree with many of the sentiments expressed by him in regard to the duty of the zamindars to the tenants in times of famine. The hon. the Member for Revenue also expressed similar sentiments this morning. It is not my desire to thwart the efforts of the zamindars to help the tenants suffering on account of famine. If they need money for these works, the money may be lent to them at the usual rate of interest."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" I second the amendment."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The amendment is now before the House for discussion."

* Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I shall say at the outset that I am prepared to agree to the latter portion of the amendment which proposes to increase the number of instalments from 5 to 15. But I am not

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prepared to support the first part of it which proposes to increase the rate of interest on the loans given to zamindars for purposes of famine-relief works. At present the position according to the Famine Code is this. If Government want to start famine-relief works in a zamindari area, say the repair of certain works or the execution of new works, the Collector of the district enters into an agreement with the zamindar as to the extent to which the zamindar would be benefited by such work and the consequent portion of the cost he should bear. The remaining cost is always borne by the Government. Now what the mover of the original resolution says is this : 'I am prepared to bear the whole cost of the famine-relief works whether I am benefited by that to the whole extent or not ; but I request the Government to give me a loan at an easy rate of interest to be repaid in a few instalments.' The Famine Code provides for loans being given to the zamindars under the Agriculturists Loans Act, to the extent of their responsibility. A grant is also given to cover the other portion. The mover says that he does not want to consider the question of grants at all and that he is willing and ready to bear the whole burden of the relief works and relieve the general tax-payer to some extent. The only thing he wants is a favourable rate of interest. It is rather rare in these days to have enlightened zamindars who will go to the extent of saying that they would undertake famine-relief works in zamindari areas while the Government undertake famine-relief works in ryotwari areas. It is certainly a happy time that the zamindars are willing to co-operate with the Government in these matters We should not thwart their efforts by increasing the rate of interest. Even this interest of 3 per cent would benefit the general taxpayer as the zamindar undertakes a certain amount of responsibility which would otherwise have fallen on his shoulders. I have therefore great pleasure in supporting the latter part of the amendment regarding the fifteen instalments while I regret I am not able to support the first part of the amendment which proposes to increase the rate of interest on loans."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—" Sir, I do not find much difference between the resolution as moved by the Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri and the amendment of my hon. Friend Mr. K. V. R. Swami from the financial point of view. While the original resolution says that the rate of interest is to be 3 per cent and the loan is to be repaid in five instalments the amendment says that the rate is to be 5 per cent (for I understand that is the rate of interest for loans to local bodies) and the loan is to be recovered in fifteen instalments. I do not think that Government will be able to give a loan at such a low rate as 5 per cent. It would touch their pockets. They will have to pay a greater interest for the money they themselves borrow. When the number of instalments is large the loss also will be proportionately large.

" The famine-relief works are not undertaken by the zamindars as a legal duty although the permanent settlement regulations contemplate that the zamindar should do everything for the amelioration of the condition of the zamindari ryots. During famine times, it is my experience in my district and I think it will be the experience of other members also coming from other districts, that the zamindars do very little to alleviate the suffering of the ryots. When loans are given, the zamindars take away with the left hand what is given with the right. When the crop is raised with the help of the loan given, the zamindars collect the rent in the famine year itself without waiting for more favourable seasons. If sufficient safeguards are provided to

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compel the zamindar to utilize the money for the purpose for which it was granted I have no objection to agree to the resolution asking that a favourable rate of 3 per cent should be charged on loans and that the loans should be recovered in not less than five instalments. I appeal to all the hon. Members of this House to pass the original resolution without any dissentient voice. I appeal to my Friend Mr. Swami Nayudu to withdraw his amendment. Subject to the provision of sufficient safeguards for the utilization of the loans for the purpose for which they were granted I appeal to all the Members to support the original resolution."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Does the hon. Member who spoke last want to incorporate these safeguards in the original resolution itself or is he content with a pious hope ? "

The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI :—" Sir, I submit that during the times of famine the zamindars are in one and the same predicament as the tenants. In these hard days many a zamindar finds it difficult to make both ends meet after defraying all the charges incidental to his position. This resolution has been brought before this House after much deliberation. If the Government would help the zamindars to some extent it would only be indirectly helping the ryots of the zamindari area. A usurious rate of interest ought not to be levied on loans for famine-relief purposes. Even the 3 per cent interest is a little too much considering the nature of the work undertaken by the zamindars. I, therefore, appeal to the House to reject the amendment and pass the original resolution."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Sir, may I make a personal explanation ? The hon. Member Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar asked me whether the safeguards are to be introduced in the resolution itself."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is not a personal explanation.

(After a pause) " I take it that the House is ready for recording its opinion on the amendment. As there is some difference of opinion regarding the two amendments, I shall put the questions separately as two distinct questions."

The first portion of the amendment was put to the House and declared negatived. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar demanded a poll and the House divided thus :—

(Amendment No. 1 of Mr. K. V. R. Swami.)

5 p.m.

Ayes.

1. The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.
2. ,, Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks.
3. ,, Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
4. ,, Mr. T. E. Moir.
5. ,, Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
6. ,, Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
7. Mr. J. F. Hall.
8. ,, G. T. Boag.
9. ,, V. Pandrang Row.
10. ,, S. H. Slater.
11. ,, C. B. Cotterell.
12. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
13. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan.
14. ,, C. D. Appavu Chettiyar.
15. Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder.
16. ,, J. Bheemayya.
17. ,, J. A. Davis.
18. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa 'Bahadur.'
19. Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai.
20. ,, C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar.
21. Rao Sahib P. V. S. Sundaramurti.
22. Mr. S. Venkayya.
23. ,, Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
24. ,, S. Satyamurti.
25. ,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
26. ,, P. Anjaneyulu.
27. ,, K. Koti Reddi.
28. ,, J. A. Saldanha.
29. ,, C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
30. ,, G. Harisarvottama Rao.
31. ,, C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.

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Ayes—cont.

32. Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib.
33. ,, K. V. R. Swami.
34. ,, K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar.
35. ,, D. Narayana Raju.
36. ,, Mothay Narayana Rao.
37. ,, B. S. Mallayya.
38. ,, K. Uppi Sahib.
39. ,, P. Siva Rao.
40. ,, C. Obi Reddi.
41. ,, A. Parasurama Rao.
42. ,, U. Ramaswami Ayyar.
43. ,, C. Ramasomayajulu.
44. ,, Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib.
45. ,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
46. ,, Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib Syed Ibrahim Sahib.
47. Mr. L. K. Tulasiram.
48. ,, K. R. Karant.
49. ,, K. V. Krishnaswami Nayakar.
50. ,, K. Madhavan Nayar.
51. ,, C. Venkatarangam Nayudu.
52. ,, C. Gopala Menon.
53. ,, M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
54. ,, M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
55. ,, V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
56. ,, G. Premayya.
57. ,, Swami A. S. Sahajanandam.
58. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
59. Mr. C. R. T. Congreve.
60. Sir Alexander MacDougall.
61. Mr. J. M. Smith.
62. ,, Kenneth Kay.
63. ,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.

Noes.

1. The Zamindar of Seithur.
2. Mr. V. Ch. John.
3. ,, Kavalappara Muppil Nayar.
4. ,, N. Siva Raj.
5. ,, Daniel Thomas.
6. ,, S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
7. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.
8. Zamindar of Gollapalli.
9. Mr. Syed Tajudin Sahib.
10. The Raja of Ramnad.
11. The Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.
12. Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi.
13. Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar.
14. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro.
15. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
16. Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib.
17. Mr. P. T. Rajan.
18. ,, Munshi Abdul Wahab Sahib.
19. ,, T. K. Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar.
20. ,, S. N. Dorai Raja.
21. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar
22. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
23. Mr. Muhammad Khadir Mohidin Sahib.
24. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar.
25. Mr. T. M. Moidu Sahib.
26. Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.
27. Mr. K. Ramachandra Padayachi.
28. ,, K. Sarabha Reddi.
29. Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddi.
30. The Zamindar of Mirzapuram.
31. Mr. J. Kuppuswami.

Neutral.

1. The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan.
2. Mr. A. Balakrishna Shetti.
3. ,, Mahmud Schamnad Sahib.
4. ,, T. C Srinivasa Ayyangar.
5. ,, Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai.
6. Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
7. ,, S. Muttayya Mudaliyar.
8. ,, P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
9. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.
10. Mr. B. Venkataratnam.

63 hon. Members voted *for* the amendment, 31 *against* and 10 remained *nautral*.

The amendment was adopted.

The second amendment of Mr. K. V. R. Swami was also adopted.

* The hon. the PREISDENT :—" The resolution as amended is before the House for discussion.

" For the convenience of the hon. Members of the House I may inform them that the House will sit to-morrow and will thereafter adjourn to some date in March to be announced to-morrow.

" As to the point of order [a] that was raised by the hon. Member Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar, I hold that any clerical mistakes that may have crept in may be allowed to be corrected. I have given instructions to the Secretary to correct the mistake and add the word ' Ramnad '."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

[a] vide page 233 supra.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, the 27th January 1927.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU Garu) in the chair.

PRESENT:

Ramaswami Ayyar, The hon. Sir C. P.
Marjoribanks, The hon. Mr. N. E.
Usman Sahib Bahadur, The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Moir, The hon. Mr. T. E.
Subbarayan, The hon. Dr. P.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, The hon. Mr. A.
Arokyaswami Mudaliyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N.
Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur.
Abdul Hye Sahib Bahadur, K.
Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur S. K.
Abdul Wahab Sahib Bahadur, Munshi.
Adinarayana Chettiyar, Mr. T.
Anjaneyulu, Mr. P.
Appavu Chettiyar, Mr. C. D.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.
Arpudaswami Udayar, Mr. S.
Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu, Mr. P.
Bheemayya, Mr. J.
Biswanath Das Mahasayo, Sriman
Boag, Mr. G. T.
Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar, Mr. T. K.
Cotterell, Mr. C. B.
Dorai Raja, Mr. S. N.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Sahib S.
Ethirajulu Nayudu, Diwan Bahadur P. C.
Gangadhara Siva, Mr. M. V.
Gopala Menon, Mr. C.
Govindaraja Mudaliyar, Mr. C. S.
Guruswami, Rao Sahib L. C.
Hall, Mr. J. F.
Hampayya, Rai Sahib M.
Harisarvottama Rao, Mr. G.
John, Mr. V. Ch.
Kaleswara Rao, Mr. A.
Kameswara Rao Nayudu, Mr.
Karant, Mr. K. R.
Khadir Mohidin Sahib Bahadur, Muhammad.
Koti Reddi, Mr. K.
Krishnan, Mr. K.
Krishnan Nayar, Diwan Bahadur M.
Krishnaswami Nayakar, Mr. K.
Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.
Kuppuswami, Mr. J.
MacDougall, Sir Alexander.
Madhavan Nayar, Mr. K.
Mallayya, Mr. B. S.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S. Muhammad.
Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, T. M.
Muniswami Nayudu, Rao Bahadur B.
Muniswami Pillai, Mr. V. I.
Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara, Mr.
Muttayya Mudaliyar, Mr. S.
Muthulakshmi Reddi Mrs. S.
Muthuranga Mudaliyar, Mr. C. N.
Nagan Gowda, Mr. R.
Nanjappa Bahadur, M.V.O., Subadar-Major S. A.
Narayana Raju, Mr. D.
Narayana Rao, Mr. Mothay.
Narayanan Chettiyar, Mr. Al. Ar.
Narayanan Nambudripad, Rao Bahadur O. M.
Narayanaswami Pillai, Mr. T. M.
Obi Reddi, Mr. C.
Pandrang Row, Mr. V.
Parasurama Rao Pantulu, Mr. A.
Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Patro, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Premayya, Mr. G.
Raja of Jeypore.
Raja of Panagal.
Raja of Ramnad.
Rajan, Mr. P. T.
Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. K.
Ramachandra Reddi, Mr. B.
Ramanath Goenka, Mr.
Ramasomayajulu, Mr C.
Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. U.
Sahajanandam Swami, Mr. A. S.
Saldanha, Mr. J. A.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Sarabha Reddi, Mr. K.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Mahmud.
Seturatnam Ayyar, Mr. M. R.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Sitarama Reddi, Rao Bahadur K.
Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Siva Rao, Mr. P.
Slater, Mr. S. H.
Smith, Mr. J. Mackenzie.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. R.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Srinivasan, Rao Sahib R.
Subrahmanya Moopanar, Mr. S.
Subrahmanya Pillai, Mr. Chavadi K.
Sundaramurti Pillai, Rao Sahib P. V. S.
Swami, Mr. K. V. R.

PRESENT—*cont.*

Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur, Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib.
Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Syed.
Tireman, Mr. H.
Tulasiram, Mr. L. K.
Tyler, Mr. H. H. F. M.
Uppi Sahib Bahadur, K.
Vanavudaiya Goundar, Mr. S. V.
Venkatapati Raju, Mr. P. C.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
Venkataramana Ayyangar, Mr. C. V.
Venkatarangam Nayudu, Mr. C.
Venkataratnam, Mr. B.
Venkiah, Mr. S.
Wood, Mr. C. E.
Zamindar of Gollapalli.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram.
Zamindar of Seithur.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15 *on the 4th December* 1924.

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other Member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a Member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other Member to put supplementary questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Education

Action taken on the question of treating untrained teachers of long service as trained teachers.

*80 *Q.*—Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any, and if so, what action has been taken in 1926–27 on the question of treating untrained teachers of long service as trained teachers as stated in the proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction R.C. No. 2278-D/22, dated 15th May 1925 ?

A.—As stated in the answer to question No. 1779 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th March 1926, the Director of Public Instruction decided not to proceed further with the proposal.

The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member is not in his place and therefore it will be taken up after all the questions are finished."

27th January 1927]

Local Boards]

Rural roads and rural water-supply.

*81 *Q.*—Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of money set apart for rural roads and rural water-supply during 1926–27;

(*b*) the amount placed at the disposal of the district boards in detail; and

(*c*) whether any unspent balance for 1925–26 under these heads has lapsed?

A.—(*a*) Rupees 2,25,254 for village roads and Rs. 3,14,333 for the improvement of the rural water-supply.

(*b*) A statement [a] showing the amount placed at the disposal of each district board in 1926–27 for each of these purposes is appended.

(*c*) Yes. The lapsed amounts (Rs. 1,66,254 under village roads and Rs. 2,71,333 under water-supply) have been reallotted to the boards in the current year. They are included in the sums given in clause (*a*).

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi:—"Am I to understand, Sir, that Rs. 1,02,000 have been allotted over and above what was allotted for 1925–26?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"I did not hear exactly what my hon. Friend referred to, Sir."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi:—"With reference to clause (*a*), regarding the amount of money set apart for rural roads and rural water-supply, the answer is that Rs. 5,39,587 was allotted. In answer to clause (*c*) the amount that has lapsed is shown as Rs. 4,37,587. So, the difference between the amount allotted for 1926–27 and that allotted for 1925–26 comes to Rs. 1,02,000, which means that during 1926–27 only a further allotment of Rs. 1,02,000 has been made. Am I to understand that only that amount was allotted for 1926–27?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"As stated in the answer, Sir, an amount of Rs. 1,02,000 was allotted for 1926–27 and the amount that lapsed in 1925–26 was also reallotted for 1926–27."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi:—"Am I to understand that the unspent balance from the amount for 1925–26 did not lapse?"

The hon. Dr P. Subbarayan:—"The amount did not lapse, as stated in the answer. The difference of Rs. 1,02,000 is an addition to the amount that was to lapse."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi:—"To my question whether any unspent balance lapsed in 1925–26, the answer is 'Yes'. That means that the amount lapsed."

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[a] Vide Appendix on page 320 infra.

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The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The reply shows that the amounts that lapsed were reallotted to the district boards for the current year."

Mr. B. Venkataratnam put a supplemental question in Telugu.

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"My knowledge of Telugu is so meagre that I am unable to answer the question of my hon. Friend on the other side."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I do not think that Ministers or Members of the Cabinet can avoid the responsibility of answering questions when they are put by Members who are conversant only with the vernacular and are not fluent in English They must make their own arrangements to have such questions translated to them."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"It is left to the hon. the President, Sir, to have them translated. I think he has got enough staff in the Council office."

The hon. the PREIDENT :—"For the time being, one of the Telugu members of the office staff will translate the question for the convenience of the House."

Mr. B. VENKATARATNAM (in Telugu) :—"With reference to the amount mentioned in the appendix to this question, Sir, we find that varying amounts have been allotted to different district boards Have the Government allotted the amounts according to the cesses paid by the various districts or on any other principle ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The amounts are allotted to the various district boards according to the amounts they are able to supply, and with regard to the Government grant, it is generally equal to the amount supplied by the district boards themselves."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—"May I rise to a point of order, Sir ? I understand the questioner knows English. As such, he is not entitled to put the question in his vernacular."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"As to this particular hon. Member, he has been in the practice of addressing the House in the vernacular. It is a well-known fact. The practice has never been hitherto objected to."

Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"May I know, Sir, whether it did not form part of the scheme to give equal amounts to the boards and not according to the amounts given by them ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"That was the outline of the scheme, but it had to be modified according to convenience, later on."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"In view of the fact that large amounts have lapsed, will the Government be pleased to reconsider the principle on which these grants are made, taking also into consideration the views expressed by the Members of this House, namely, to do away with the condition that if the money is not utilized within the year and lapses, it would be taken away ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"That condition was taken away last year."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Then how is it that a large amount has lapsed ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" They lapsed, but they were re-allotted."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I want to know how they lapsed at all. If there was no condition that unless the amount was used within the end of the year, the Government would take back the money, may we know the circumstances under which such large sums lapsed ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice of that question, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if the principle of giving to the local bodies concerned only as much as they contribute is strictly adhered to in all cases ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" No, it is not strictly adhered to."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know, Sir, when these sums of money were placed at the disposal of the district boards ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Some time about August, as far as I know "

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" In view of the answer that was given by the hon. the Chief Minister, will he kindly tell us the cases in which the principle was deviated from ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" In regard to some of the Ceded districts, that rule was not observed."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, if any restrictions were placed in the way of the district boards spending this money which was allotted for rural water-supply—I cannot say in what form such restrictions are—but are there any restrictions with regard to the district boards using their discretion in spending the amounts ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The boards it is that spend the money and they have every discretion in the matter."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" I was told, Sir, that they could not spend upon reservoirs, for instance, on the Koneru open reservoirs in the black-cotton soil portions of the districts. I want to know if that is true that they have full discretion in spending the money ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" They have been given full discretion to spend the money on rural water-supply."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" May I ask, Sir, if in the cases of the district of Nellore, Rs. 45,222 was actually contributed by the board ? If not, what is the amount contributed by it ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice, Sir."

Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" With reference to the Nilgiris, I understand that a sum of Rs. 45,000 was given as a special grant to improve the village roads and water-supply. May I know from the hon. the Chief Minister what amount has lapsed ? "

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The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As stated in the appendix it was not Rs. 45,000, but it was only Rs. 7,658."

Rao Bahadur K. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Are the Government aware that these large sums have lapsed because the grants were made very late in the year? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The grants were made only after the remission we got from the Government of India and that is why they were late. I am aware of that."

11-15 a.m. Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" In view of the fact that out of the total amount of Rs. 2,25,254 for village roads and Rs. 3,14,333, for the improvement of rural water-supply, Rs. 1,66,254 and Rs. 2,71,333, respectively, have lapsed, as stated in the appendix, will the Government be pleased to institute an enquiry as to how it was that these grants lapsed, and then will they take steps to see that these grants are as far as possible spent in the year for which they are made, or . . . ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As I said, Sir, these grants were made rather late in the year and that is the reason why they are not spent, the boards find it difficult to do so before the end of the official year."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know as a matter of fact when these grants were made? Was it in March last year, or what? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" It was after the schemes were considered. It was in October or at the end of September that these grants were made."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether the delay occurred in the Minister's office, and, if so, may I ask whether the Ministers will be pleased to take steps to see that the delay does not occur again? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The delay was not due to any delay in the office. The delay occurred because they had to be considered after the close of the year and they had to get a supplementary grant passed by the Council."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know why these grants were not put in the Budget itself and why they wanted to ask for supplementary grants? When they knew that there was no time to spend the amount, why did they, with their tongue in their cheek, ask for it in the supplementary demand? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice, Sir."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know if the grants continue this year? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As I said before, the grants have all been restored. They have not lapsed in fact."

Mr. B. Venkataratnam asked in Telugu whether the Government was aware that the money for drinking water-supply could not be spent before March as it was mostly required to be spent in summer, etc.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I answer the question, Sir? I have been making enquiries into the question of spending these allotments for rural water-supply frequently. I find that the district and taluk boards have so far not prepared any

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regular programmes and we are issuing instructions to them to get regular programmes ready, so that they may in the first place know what the demands are and they may be in a position to spend the amounts allotted for the year."

Rao Bahadur K. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Is the Government aware of the fact that the preparation of estimates means cost to the local boards? If they are not sure of getting these amounts they will not be in a position to take up the preparation of estimates, etc., for any scheme?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I think, Sir, we are arguing in a circle."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Is the Government aware of the fact that each taluk board and district board has to submit to the Government a famine programme which includes the construction of wells and tanks in rural areas?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I believe, Sir, that we do not allot monies for works included in the famine programme."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Will the Government be pleased to say whether the taluk boards and district boards may be asked to undertake some works included in the famine programme if money is allotted in time?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" They are free to do so, Sir, if they think those works urgent."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister whether it is practicable to carry out the works contained in the Famine Code programme out of the money allotted for that programme because my experience has always been that very meagre sums are allotted for works under the famine programme and it is never possible to carry out any work."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" As far as I can see, Sir, I see no objection to the local boards carrying out the works referred to in the famine programme which they consider to be urgent."

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Does the Government know that the taluk boards insist on the villagers' paying a portion of the estimated amounts in laying out these village roads, and is it in accordance with the intention of the Government?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Yes. That is so, Sir. It is part of the scheme."

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Will it serve the necessity of the poor villagers who are unable to pay it? Does the Government think that the political predilictions of the taluk board officials or the villagers have had anything to do with the laying out of these roads?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I hope such sentiments will not be allowed to prevail in local board affairs."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Hereafter?" (Laughter.)

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Mr. B. Venkataratnam stated in Telugu that he took it that the Government were aware that the money for drinking water-supply could be spent only in April, May or June or July, and asked whether Government would issue orders to spend the amounts in May, June, etc.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" If I have understood this question correctly, Sir, I think the Government are not going to allot the money again for village water-supply, so that I do not think the Government is going to spread this allotment like that."

Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" May I know what provision the Government are going to make next year for village water-supply ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Rs. 2,71,333 has been allotted."

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" In awarding these grants to these local boards, the Government seems to insist as a condition that the boards concerned should contribute an equal amount so that the Government may make their own grants. There are various boards that are unable to pay as they are facing deficits. Does the Government intend that such boards should go without these grants ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The Government do take into consideration the ability of the board to pay or not."

Mr. B. Venkataratnam repeated his question in Telugu about permitting boards to spend money in the summer months, the Government adjusting their grants accordingly.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" As I said already, Sir, it is the policy of the Government to allot sums for village water supply and I think it may be presumed that Government is not going to stop these allotments. I hope I have understood the hon. Member correctly."

Mr. B. Venkataratnam said in Telugu that his question related to the amounts that have lapsed and asked whether Government would undertake to make such amounts available.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I do not think we are in a position to give any such undertaking, Sir."

Industries

Scholarships to students to study in Dhanbad Mining School.

*82 Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that several Provincial Governments have granted scholarships to students studying in the Dhanbad Mining School ; and, if so, which provinces ;

(b) whether the local Government have received any applications for scholarships from students going from this Presidency ; and, if so, how many ; and

(c) whether the local Government intend to give any scholarships, and if so, how many ?

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A.—(*a*) The Government understand that the Government of Central Provinces and Berar have instituted two scholarships. They have no information about the other Provincial Governments.

(*b*) One application was received in November 1926.

(*c*) The question will be considered along with part II schemes for 1928–29.

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know, Sir, what would be the likely amount which Government may grant for each scholarship ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" It is already stated in the answer, Sir, that the question will be considered along with part II schemes for 1928–29."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" My point is this. When they choose to grant a scholarship, what is the approximate amount which they will grant? Will it be in thousands or what ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" They will have to take into account the expenses that have to be incurred at the place of instruction, provided it is not prohibitive."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" Can the hon. Minister give me the approximate amount ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I do not think any useful purpose will be served in anticipating it, Sir. We shall fix the sum taking all the circumstances into account. It may not be very high."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" If it is not to be a high figure, what are the reasons for not including it in the next budget? Will it be so very large as to make it impossible to include it in the next budget ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" There are certain rules to be observed in these matters, Sir. These things have to be settled before November so that they may be in time for the next budget. It is now too late to do that."

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—" In answer to (*b*) the Government say that one application for scholarship has been received. May I know what has become of the application? Has the Government considered the prospects of these students who have returned after receiving training in other places ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I am not aware that applications for employment have been received and I do not know what openings there are now for such men."

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—" Has the Government considered the case of a student who received an industrial scholarship and distinguished himself in the Camborne Technical Institute in England and who is going about in this Presidency and outside in search of an appointment and is not able to obtain any ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I am very sorry to hear that incident, but if the hon. Member can tell me as to how I can help him, I shall try to do the utmost in my power."

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Mr. C. Gopala Menon :—" I understand that he saw the Development Minister several times in the past and no inducement has been afforded him by the Government."

The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" May I suggest that the hon. Member may kindly see me in connexion with this matter and tell me if there is any opening in the Government departments in my charge for a gentleman of that qualification. Then, Sir, the matter can be considered."

Training of apprentices in Government industries.

*83 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Development and the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state with reference to the answer to my question No. 2238 of 17th July 1926—

(*a*) what steps have been taken and provision made to train apprentices in various Government industries; and

(*b*) what is the number of apprentices Government propose to train in 1927–28?

A.—Orders have issued for the admission of four apprentices for training in the Ink Factory during 1926–27 and 1927–28. A scheme has been formulated and is under consideration for imparting regular training in the Kerala Soap Institute to six students in 1927 and twelve in the succeeding year. As usual, a small number of persons will be admitted in the Tanur Experimental Station.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" It has been stated in the answer that apprentices are being taken in certain industries. May I know if they will take apprentices in the Cannery at Chaliyam? Canning is a very important industry deserving of much encouragement in this Presidency and I am sorry to see it is not encouraged by taking in apprentices. I want to know what provision Government have made for admitting apprentices in places where canning is going on for preserving fruits, etc."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" The proposal to close the factory at Chaliam is under the consideration of the Government."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" May I know whether stipends are going to be given to these apprentices?"

The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" No stipends are intended to be given."

Mr. L. K. Tulasiram :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that the Government Ink Factory is working at a loss?"

11-30 a.m. The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" I was not prepared for an answer because the question did not lend itself to such a supplementary question being put. If he gives me notice, I have no objection to answer it."

Mr. L. K. Tulasiram :—" Will the hon. Minister for Development, say that the manufacture of ink is a major industry worthy of being developed in this Presidency?"

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is asking for an opinion."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" Does the Government think . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" They say that it is a question for expression of an opinion."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Does the Government classify this industry either in the major or in the minor industries ? "

The hon. Mr. A RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" As I submitted to you, Sir, I was asked questions regarding the provision made for apprentices. If supplemental questions are put outside that domain, I do not object to them, Sir, but if you give me notice, I will be glad to answer them."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Under what category manufacture of ink has been classed by Government, is it major or minor ? "

Mr. L K. TULASIRAM :—" Will the hon. the Minister for Development at least give me an idea of the sales of ink manufactured by the Government factory to the public ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, the reports are published from time to time. I do not carry the figures in my head. If the questions are noted down, I will answer."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" Are the Government aware of the criticisms published condemning the ink manufactured by Government as very inferior ink ?"

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire how the Chaliyam factory is to be disposed of, whether by sale to some company or wound up altogether ? If it be sale to some company, will the Government make it a condition precedent to the sale that a certain number of students should be trained as apprentices every year ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" The whole question is under consideration, Sir."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I hope the Government will bear this point in mind. I will lay stress on the training of apprentices. It is much more important than profit-making. I want to know whether the Government will care more for the profit-making portion of it than for the training of apprentices to spread the knowledge of the art."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I will bear the hon. Member's suggestion in my mind."

Excise

Auction sales of beer and arrack shops in the Nilgiris.

* 83-A Q.—Mr. J. A. DAVIS : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is a proposal before Government to give the Nilgiris complete prohibition in the matter of country arrack and beer ;

(*b*) if so, whether the question will be disposed of before the auction sales take place in the Nilgiris in February ; and

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(c) whether in the event of his requiring time to consider the matter, he proposes to direct the postponement of the auction sales of beer and arrack shops on the Nilgiris for two months?

A.—(a) A suggestion to that effect is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) The Government are unable to say.

(c) No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"Incidental to the answers to clauses (a) and (c) of question No. 83-A and to clause (b), Government say they are unable to say when the proposal to give the Nilgiris complete prohibition in the matter of country arrack and beer will be decided by them and they refuse to postpone the auction sales of beer and arrack shops on the Nilgiris for two months. May I ask the Government to elucidate the matter further, and answer the question whether they therefore contemplate with equanimity the possibility of this proposal not being given effect to this year, the first year of this Ministry assuming office? I am asking the hon. the Excise Minister to answer this question, whether even with regard to the small experiment like this he is going to allow the thing to go by default, with a view to the prospect of doing nothing in this matter for another twelve months."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"I do not think the question of auction sales is going to affect the future policy of the Ministry whatever it is going to be, for this reason that in the auction sales there is a condition inserted that if Government so wishes, it can cancel or alter any of the licences at any time."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"Without compensation?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"Well, that is another matter. Government reserves this power."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"May I ask the Government to answer what is the difficulty in the way of the Government deciding this question, and why they are unable to say even the time before which they hope to be in a position to decide this question one way or the other?"

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"May I appeal to you, Sir, that in the case of answers of this nature also the dates on which the answers were received in the office may be given so that, in this particular case, we may know when this answer to question 83-A was sent. I simply want to know whether it was some time before the Government came to the conclusion."

The hon. the President :—"An appeal is made whether the dates on which the answers are sent to the President's office are to be noted or not. The rules do contemplate that the Government should send the answers in a fixed time and they further contemplate that when the answers are not sent within the time prescribed, they have to apply to the President for extension of time. When this is the procedure, the members may expect them to be carefully scrutinized by the President and I do not see any reason why the dates when they were sent to the President's office should be noted in the answer papers."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"May I enquire as to whether any decision has been arrived at since then?"

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" No, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I repeat my question—the reasons why the Government are not in a position to give their decision on this very modest proposal—and secondly, Sir, if they can give any limit of time before which they will decide on the proposal ? May I ask the hon. Minister to be good enough to say what that time will be ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" All that I can say, Sir, is that I shall come to a decision as soon as possible."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" With regard to clause (*b*) of the answer, expressing unwillingness of the Government to say when they will dispose of the matter, is it due to the fact that the hon. the Minister has not made up his mind that arrack and beer drinking is bad for the hill tribes of the Nilgiris ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I do not think that point arises, Sir."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" The reason for the delay must be one of these two. I want to know whether they are averse to suggest that toddy and arrack drinking by the unsophisticated people of the Nilgiris will be very bad or whether the delay is due to questions of revenue from the point of view of Government."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" In view of the willingness of the hon. the Minister to consider the question of introducing prohibition in the Nilgiris district, may I know if it will not be possible to have this auction sale limited to a period less than a year, say three months ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I have already considered the matter. In view of the fact that Government have power to cancel the licence, I have allowed auction sales to go forward."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" My questions remain unanswered. I put this question now to the hon. the Excise Minister because he was recently reported to have said that he had not yet convinced himself that drink is an evil or something like that."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I should like to know where, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know, Sir, the amount of revenue that this auction fetched on the last occasion, Sir ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I should like to have notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" When a question like this is put, it is usual for us on this side to expect an outline of the policy so far as the question raises a policy. May I ask the hon. the Minister for Excise to say whether this question will be decided from the point of view of the lack of policy of their predecessors, or whether they are going to bring a fresh mind to bear on the question with the fact that drink is an evil to be put down ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I cannot say anything more than that the matter is under consideration."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask, in so far as the Ministry has not made up its mind one way or the other, whether they will consider the argument that the question of prohibition is only in regard to a very small place ? "

Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" If the Government is not prepared to postpone the sale, will the Government insert a clause that the sale contract entered into may be cancelled in case the Council resolves at a later stage for total prohibition."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I can give no such undertaking."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Is it because the Ministry is afraid of even contemplating the prohibition of drink in the Nilgiris ?

(After a pause.) " Sir, I have been accustomed to the Treasury Bench being silent. But it has been reserved to the senior members so far. May I therefore appeal to you, Sir, to see that the example of the senior members is not kept up by the most recent recruits ? And may I request them to note that when hon. Members on this side, especially on the front bench put questions on policy, laughter is no answer ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, I must say I was not prepared for the left handed compliment but I think the second sentence is the corrective of the first. On behalf of the senior members, I humbly submit that we have not been guilty of any disrespect in this House. It is only when no answer is required that I have ventured to remain in my seat."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" A reference has been made to the members of the Executive Council and to the Ministers. Now the point on which the question can be raised is only regarding the attitude of the Ministers in not answering the questions. I am not here to instruct what steps any gentleman has to take when he is dissatisfied with the silence of the Ministers."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am very much obliged to you, Sir, for the answer. I do not believe in hastening to the fourth method so early as this. If the Ministry persists in not answering the questions put even from the front benches on important questions of policy, we may have to resort to those steps which you gently hinted at."

Fisheries

Working of the fishing trawler.

* 84 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to the answer to my question No. 2302 on 25th August 1926, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the fishing trawler referred to has been used ;

(*b*) if so, for what purposes ;

(*c*) what its cost has been up to date;

(*d*) at what cost per mensem it is maintained and worked ;

(*e*) for what purposes it is intended to be used in future ; and

(*f*) with what profit approximately ?

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A.—(a) & (b) The trawler has just begun her work. She left Tuticorin on the 12th January for the West Coast with two schooners laden with salt and will conduct deep sea fishing on the West Coast.

(c) Rs. 1,04,589.

(d) The monthly cost is about Rs. 10,000 including the pay of the Master of the vessel and his office establishment.

(e) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (b) of question No. 2302 given on 25th August 1926.

(f) It is not possible at present to say whether the experiments in deep sea fishing will result in profit.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" I will ask certain questions in order to prevent the fishing trawler turning out as the previous one. This fishing trawler reached India some months ago and I want to know why such a long time has been taken for fitting out this trawler for exploitation purposes."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" There was some delay in getting the necessary equipment from England."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" What the equipment is I cannot understand. The answer is not given in full, and this House has not been taken into confidence. I want to know why there has been delay in getting the equipment, and what the equipment is." 11-45 a.m.

The hon. the President :—" Apparently to give an opportunity to the hon. Member to put supplementary questions ! "

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" What is this equipment that has been left behind the trawler ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" I should like to have notice."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" Is it a fact that this trawler which was imported from England at great cost would not stir out of the harbour for nearly two years ? "

The hon. the President :—" The question has already been answered, and the reasons why the trawler could not be moved from the harbour were given."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" The trawler arrived only in April 1926."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" When was it found that the parts were missing. I mean the materials for equipment. Is it not that the equipment formed part of the trawler ? Who was responsible for the trawler being purchased without the equipment ? "

Mr. V. Pandrang Row :—" The High Commissioner for India was asked to furnish the necessary equipment for conducting fishing experiments when sending the trawler from Europe to India. Unfortunately, certain fishing gear was not sent out. I think the articles arrived only two or three months ago."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister or the spokesman for him whether in sending the order for the trawler it was clearly stated the purpose for which the trawler was ordered and the

equipment that was necessary for the experiment? If there was any delay in the matter of their being sent out, I want to know who is responsible for the delay."

Mr. V. PANDRANG ROW :—"I have already stated that the necessary equipment was ordered in time. But it did not arrive in time."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I enquire whether when the original order for converting the trawler for the purpose for which it was intended was given, a special officer was sent to make the purchase? It had been stated that a special officer was sent to England to give necessary instructions for converting the trawler to serve the purpose for which it was intended."

Mr. V. PANDRANG ROW :—"An officer was not sent there for that purpose. But a certain officer who was engaged there to bring out the trawler was also asked to look after the equipment in consultation with the Director-General of Stores."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"What instructions were given to him for fishing purpose, or for whatever other purpose, or for simply purchasing a trawler and bringing it out?"

Mr. V. PANDRANG ROW :—"He was asked to bring out the trawler with the equipment. But the equipment was not ready."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"With regard to answer to clause (*f*), will the hon. the Minister or his spokesman, as my hon. Friend put it, be pleased to state whether they have launched upon this experiment without first estimating what profits approximately they may get?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"It is only an experiment, and no profit was expected."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"No approximate estimate was made? No forethought was exercised in estimating what was likely to be the profit out of an experiment like this on which a large amount of money is spent. Am I to understand so?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"The trawler was purchased for the purpose of making an experiment. The purpose was certainly not to make any profits. In an experiment, it was not going to give us any profits."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"I understand what the meaning of the word 'experiment' is. I want to know if, when Government launches upon any experiment, it does not care to realize what possibilities lie in the way of its own experiments."

Alleged scarcity of drinking water in Ganjam district.

* 84-A. Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: "Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware of the fact that scarcity of drinking water is very greatly felt in the district of Ganjam; and

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to make a grant to each of the four taluk boards in the Ganjam district to construct temporary wells wherever possible?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no specific information.

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(*b*) The Government have made a grant of Rs. 12,399 during the current year for the improvement of the water-supply in the rural areas of the district and have informed the District Board that, if it is not carrying out works itself, it should distribute the amount among the taluk boards.

The question of including in the Civil Budget Estimate for 1927–28 a lump sum for grants for the improvement of the rural water-supply throughout the Presidency is under consideration. If the amount is provided in the budget, the claims of the district of Ganjam will be fully considered in its distribution.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" In reply to clause (*a*), it is said 'The Government have no specific information.' If the local boards have failed to give the information and have neglected their duty, will the Government be pleased to call for the information necessary for the purpose ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I will call for the information, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED SAHIB :—" Is the hon. the Minister aware that there is a similar scarcity of drinking water in the district of Salem ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" It does not arise, Sir."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" In reply to clause (*b*), mention has been made of the grant of Rs. 12,399 which has to be spent by the end of March. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are going to make any further grant on a supplementary demand for the purpose, in view of the urgency of the question ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I would ask for notice, Sir."

Mr. B. Venkataratnam asked in Telugu whether the Government would agree to the principle that it is the primary duty of Government to supply drinking water in villages ?

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" On a point of order, Sir. I request you to give a ruling whether a Member can address the House in the vernacular when he knows English. In this particular case, other hon. Members are not in a position to know what he has asked, and if the hon. the Minister is giving a satisfactory answer or not. Not knowing these, we are deprived of the opportunity of putting supplementary questions."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I fully realize the difficulties of the other hon. Members who are not acquainted with the vernacular in which the hon. Member for Godavari speaks. I think he is an old Member of this House, and he has always been allowed by my predecessors to address the House in the vernacular. The question whether he is fluent in English as required by the rules is a question which might practically be taken to have been solved, and therefore I have allowed him to address the House in the vernacular. If hon. Members of the House feel any difficulty, I have no objection to make arrangements for the translation of questions or speeches made in the House in the vernacular for the benefit of other Members."

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Sir, I want definite information for these two questions : first whether they are going to make any grant in time, and secondly whether they are going to reallot the money if at all there is any lapse out of this grant of Rs. 12,399."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" That depends upon the vote of the House. As is stated in the answer, 'the question of including in the Civil Budget Estimate for 1927–28 a lump sum for grants for the improvement of the rural water-supply throughout the Presidency is under consideration '."

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know whether there is any policy after all in allotting grants for rural water-supply in each district ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I should like to have notice of that question."

Public Health

Increase of malaria in sub-ghaut areas in South Kanara, etc.

* 85 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether malaria has increased considerably in sub-ghaut areas in South Kanara, Malabar, Nilgiris and Coimbatore districts on account of rapid growth of forests ; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to stop the increase ?

A.—(a) There has been no increase in the forest area in the districts referred to during recent years and the Government have no reason to suppose that malaria is more prevalent in the localities near the hills in these districts than it was previously.

(b) The question of distributing quinine *free* in *specially malarious* localities, including parts of the South Kanara district, is now under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" In regard to the reply given to clause (a), may I point out that I did not refer to the increase in the area of forest. But I specifically used the words 'growth of forests'. That means exorbitant growth of trees and plants and bushes. According to the impression among the people and according to expert opinion, the growth of forest has led to the increase of malaria. Therefore, have Government taken this fact into consideration and made enquiries whether the increased growth of forests has led to the increase of malaria ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Sir, that is a very wide question of which I should like to have notice."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I should be glad to give notice, Sir. As regards the question of free distribution of quinine, I am thankful that the Government is considering it. There is another point, Sir, and that is selling quinine at the pre-war price. What is called the pice packet is not sold for 3 pies but for 9 pies now. Will the Government take steps to see that quinine is sold for 3 pies, the price at which it was sold formerly ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" The whole question is under consideration."

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Now, the question of giving quinine free is rather a difficult one. Government indicated recently that they were selling a pound of quinine at Rs. 28, while it was selling for about Rs. 16 in the market. I want to know why Government did not take steps to reduce the price. Why should not these questions of free distribution of quinine and the price of quinine be kept separate, and quinine be sold at a reasonable rate instead of nine pies per packet?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I will bear the hon. Member's enquiry in mind."

Tirumani Leper Settlement.

*86 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to refer to the answer given to my question No. 2166 of 16th July 1926 and to state—

(*a*) what is the average rate of expenditure per each patient in the Leper Settlement at Tirumani having regard to the grant of Rs. 1,10,500 for 1926–27;

(*b*) on what basis is the capitation grant of Rs. 4-8-0 per each patient calculated in the case of private aided leper asylums; and

(*c*) what decision Government have arrived at as to the increase of this capitation grant having regard to the actual expenditure for each patient (i) on the basis of the expenditure in the Tirumani Settlement, (ii) on the basis on the probable expenditure in each asylum?

A.—(*a*) The average monthly expenditure for each patient in the Leper Settlement at Tirumani has been Rs. 13–6–10 up to the end of December 1926.

(*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answers given to the supplementary questions to question No. 2166 answered at the meeting held on the 16th July 1926.

(*c*) (i) The Government do not propose to increase the rate of the capitation grants made to private leper asylums on the basis of the expenditure incurred in the Tirumani Leper Settlement. The Leper Settlement at Tirumani is a Government institution and the rate of capitation grant was fixed at Rs. 13–4–0 per head in order to cover the entire cost of the diet, medicines, etc., given to each patient. The grants made to private asylums are however merely to supplement the other resources of the managing authorities.

(ii) The Surgeon-General recommended that the capitation grants made to private asylums should be increased to two-thirds of the actual cost of maintenance subject to a maximum of Rs. 8 per head. The Government have informed him that a general enhancement of the rate of capitation grants cannot be considered unless the managers of these asylums can show from their accounts that the cost of maintenance has risen and by how much and can also show that they are unable to maintain the asylums efficiently with the aid of the existing Government grant and of the financial assistance at present received from other sources.

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" On this question, may I draw attention to the fact that Government have made in the current year a grant of Rs. 1·10 lakhs for the maintenance of hospitals? Now, there are 450 patients, or say 500 patients in round figures. The rate works out at Rs. 22 per patient by dividing Rs. 1·10 lakhs by 500. I want to know how they have arrived at the figure of Rs. 13 per patient."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I should like to have notice. In all probability, the total cost included also the establishment charges."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Establishment and everything has to be included in finding the cost per patient. It is said that a capitation grant of Rupees 13–4–0 is given. This Leper Settlement is not a private institution and it is not like giving a grant-in-aid to it as to a private body. The Government at the same time overlooks the fact that they are spending Rs. 1·10 lakhs over it, which works out at a rate of Rs. 22 per patient. In the case of a private establishment, they pay only two-thirds the cost, i.e., Rs. 8, so that the patient in a private institution costs only Rs. 12 or Rs. 13, whereas here the Government actually spend Rs. 22 per patient. My question is this: whether Government as a matter of policy should not aid private bodies on the same scale?"

12 noon. The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The time allotted for questions and answers is over, and we will proceed to the next order of the day."

Forest Panchayats

Forest Panchayats in Nellore district.

*87 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of forest panchayats formed during the current year in Nellore district; and

(b) whether the Government have considered the desirability of reintroducing the "Permit system" in the western taluks of Nellore district at least?

A.—(a) Up to the end of September 1926, the latest date for which information is available, no panchayats had been formed during the current official year in the Nellore district.

(b) The Government have called for a report from the Chief Conservator.

Land Revenue

Total failure of crops in Godavari and Kistna districts.

*88 Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that crops have totally failed in the upland portions of Godavari East, Godavari West and Kistna districts and that there is already scarcity of water for cattle; and

(b) if not, whether the Government will enquire into the matter?

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A.—(*a*) The Government have no reason to think that there has been a total failure of crops in the regions specified.

(*b* A report has been called for.

Village Establishments

Enhancement of salaries of village officers.

* 89 Q – Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any memorial from village officers asking for the enhancement of salaries ; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government intend to take in the matter ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government do not propose to increase the scale of salaries now fixed.

Irrigation

Introduction of the Irrigation Bill and Madras Estates Land Act Amendment Bill.

* 90 Q.—The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state when—

(1) Irrigation Bill, and

(2) Madras Estates Land Act Amendment Bill will be introduced in the Council?

A—(1) The Irrigation Bill which was before the last Council lapsed with the dissolution of the Council. The Government propose to ascertain whether the Council will accept a less comprehensive measure which will be concerned primarily with the removal of such impediments as may at present exist to the construction of large irrigation works.

(2) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 4.

Legislation regarding irrigation.

* 91 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state when the required legislation regarding irrigation in this province will be brought ?

A.—The Government propose to ascertain whether the Council will accept a measure which is less comprehensive than the Bill which was before the last Council and which will be concerned primarily with the removal of such impediments as may at present exist to the construction of large irrigation works.

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Motor Vehicles Act

Motor buses and taxi cars in Madras City.

* 92 Q.—Mr. J. KUPPUSWAMI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of motor buses that have till now been registered in the Madras City and in each of the districts in the Presidency, the amount of registration fee collected in 1925–26, and the expenditure incurred in payment of remuneration to each of the officers appointed for periodical examination of the vehicles;

(b) the total number of taxi cars plying for hire in the Madras City, the registration fee collected in 1925–26, and the amount of remuneration paid to the Commissioner of Police;

(c) the expenditure incurred by Government (1) on the establishment and (2) contingencies for the regulation of traffic in the Madras City during each of the last three years; and

(d) whether the Government have considered the question of the desirability of appointing technically qualified persons for the examination of buses and other types of motor vehicles?

A.—(a) *to* (c) The Government have no information; they have called for it.

(d) Yes, technically qualified persons have been appointed in districts in which the work of examining buses is heavy and the income from fees justifies such an appointment.

Panchayat Courts

Alleged inconveniences in executing decrees of panchayat courts.

* 93 Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the inconvenience felt in villages in the matter of execution of decrees of panchayat courts for want of rules under section 78 (2) (h) of the Madras Village Courts Act; and

(b) whether the Government intend to frame such rules at an early date?

A.—(a) & (b) The existing provisions of law regulating the execution of decrces of panchayat courts are contained in Chapter VI of the Madras Village Courts Act and rules 52 and 53 of the rules framed thereunder. These rules have been published at pages 256–262 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette* dated the 7th March 1922.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Education

Specialized course of education for girls.

94 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether Government have under consideration a specialized course of education suitable for girls who cannot bear the strain of the normal courses of study intended for boys in elementary and upper secondary schools?

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A.—Under the existing scheme, girls' schools are permitted to teach a number of subjects which are of special use for girls. In elementary schools, health and house management, needle-work and music are included among the subjects of study, while the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate scheme allows instruction in such subjects as domestic economy and sewing, domestic science, lace-work, needle-work and dress-making, music.

The Government have not got under consideration any proposals on the lines indicated.

Buildings

Government expenditure on construction of buildings for officers.

95 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total capital expenditure incurred by the Government for the construction of buildings for the use of officers;

(*b*) what is the rent derived from these buildings; and

(*c*) what is the average amount spent on these buildings for repairs per year?

A.—(*a*) Rs. 58,88,413
(*b*) Rs. 2,37,787
(*c*) Rs. 1,22,340
} The figures are based on the capital and revenue accounts of 1924–25 (the latest available).

Construction of the University Library buildings.

96 *Q.*—Mr. C. Obi Reddi: Will the hon. the Minister for Development and the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras turned the first sod for the construction of the University Library buildings on the site of the Marine Villa and if so, when;

(*b*) whether the subsequent operations were stopped at the instance of the Chief Engineer to Government;

(*c*) whether the plans for the foundation of the buildings had been devised and approved so long ago as 1924 by the then Chief Engineer, Mr. M. R. Kharegat;

(*d*) whether the present Chief Engineer has condemned the foundation plans approved by his predecessor;

(*e*) whether the present Chief Engineer in July 1926 estimated the cost of laying out the foundation at Rs. 62,000, and if so, what the basis of his estimates was;

(*f*) whether the Chief Engineer has now designed other foundation plans, and if so, what the estimated cost is;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that the Government in the interests of the Connemara Public Library have informed the University that the University Library cannot continue to be located in its present building; and

(*h*) when the work of constructing the University Library buildings is expected to be commenced?

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A.—(*a*) Yes. On the 27th August 1926.

(*b*) Yes

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) As the plans according to the original scheme were not accepted by the University, who have substituted an entirely new scheme, it has become necessary to redesign the foundations to suit the new plans.

(*e*) No

(*f*) Not yet.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) The detailed plans and estimates for the new scheme are under preparation in the Chief Engineer's office. Construction of the buildings will begin as soon as these are ready.

Co-operative Societies

Working of co-operative unions in North Arcot district.

97 *Q.*—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many co-operative unions have been started by the Deputy Registrar, Vellore, in the North Arcot district ;

(*b*) whether he examined the financial position and available human material to work these unions successfully before registering the unions ;

(*c*) how many co-operative unions there are in the Presidency and how many of them are in North Arcot district ;

(*d*) how many of these get less than Rs. 1,000 annually from all sources deducting the contribution paid to the District Federations ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the alarming increase of overdues in this Province and the heavy surpluses in the Central and Apex banks are due mainly to the inefficient working of these co-operative unions ; if not, what are the reasons ;

(*f*) whether Government contemplate the formation of taluk development associations to undertake not only co-operative, but agricultural and panchayat work on the model of Bombay ; and

(*g*) if not, why not ?

A.—(*a*) Six unions were organized in the North Arcot district during 1925-26.

(*b*) The Government have no reason to think that this necessary examination was not made.

(*c*) Presidency 346.
North Arcot district 30.

(*d*) The Government have no information.

(*e*) The increase of overdues is reported to be due to unfavourable sessional conditions and to the inefficiency of some of the supervising unions.

The large surpluses in the banks is due to the fact that the deposits received from local boards, municipalities, individuals, etc., were much more than could be immediately absorbed in the movement.

(*f*) & (*g*) The question has not yet arisen for the consideration of the Government.

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Religious and Charitable Endowments

Legislation regarding Hindu Religious Endowments.

97-A Q—Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether he intends to introduce legislation and if so, when, with a view to allay the widespread public resentment caused by the objectionable policy and provisions of the recent Act re-enacting Madras Act I of 1925 and with due regard to the following points, viz.—

(*a*) the restoration to the Civil Courts and the Advocate-General of all their jurisdiction and powers as they were before Madras Act I of 1925 and the abolition of the Board of Commissioners;

(*b*) the exclusion of maths from the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act; and

(*c*) a suitable restriction of the power to appropriate endowments and surplus funds cypres by making it conditional on the sanction of the Civil Court in each case?

A.—The Government are aware that there is, in certain quarters, a feeling of dissatisfaction with some of the provisions of the new Hindu Religious Endowments Act. Various aspects of the problems connected with the administration of religious endowments have been emphasised during the many debates that have taken place on the floor of this House and elsewhere and many objections to the present Act have also been put forward which will all be carefully considered. Some of them relate to the jurisdiction of courts under the Act with special reference to schemes of management, others to the limits of the doctrine of cypres and the range and extent of the possibility of the diversion of the funds of the endowments; others are concerned with the necessity for and the functions assignable to the Board of Control. The position of maths and the possibility of separate and specific legislation designed to meet the necessities of their case is another topic on which opinion has been strongly though not unanimously expressed.

In view to all these circumstances, it is the intention of Government with the help, if possible, of members of all the interests concerned to explore the subjects as to which controversy has taken place and to bring in an amending Bill at the earliest opportunity so as to improve the Act wherever necessary and make it acceptable to the people for whose benefit it is intended.

Registration

Change of jurisdiction of the Arni Registration sub-district.

98 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that No. 43 Vinnamangalam village, which was included in the jurisdiction of the Arni Registration sub-district, is now included in the Peranamallur sub-district;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Peranamallur is 9 miles distant from this village whereas Arni is only 4 miles distant; and

(*c*) whether Government are aware that parties are put to considerable inconvenience by this change of jurisdiction?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is reported that the village is 12 miles distant from Peranamallur and $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles from Arni.

(*c*) The question of re-transferring the village to the Registration sub-district of Arni will be considered.

Land Revenue

Grievances of the ryots of Anchetti firka in Salem district.

99 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a memorial from the ryots of Anchetti firka in the Salem district praying for the redress of certain grievances;

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken by Government on the mahazar;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that in this area (terf) the tree-tax is Rs. 7-8-0 per acre whereas elsewhere it is only Rs. 5 per acre and if so, why;

(*d*) whether Government are aware that the trees for which the tree-tax is levied are fit only for firewood; and

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the "darkhast" lands are not "confirmed" to the darkhast applicants except after long delay?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The petition has been forwarded to the Board of Revenue for disposal.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government have not the particulars asked for. The question apparently refers to the valuation of tree growth on darkhast land which must vary according to the circumstances of the case though as a general rule the seigniorage rates of the Forest department are followed.

(*e*) The question is not understood. The Government are aware that the necessity for observing the formalities of the rules often delays the disposal of darkhast applications but there is no provision in the rules for provisional assignments that are subject to subsequent confirmation.

Failure of crops in Tanjore district.

100 *Q.*—Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the articles in the newspapers about the failure of crops in the Tanjore district;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware of the extent to which (1) first crops and (2) second crops have suffered; and

(*c*) what steps the Government propose to take to alleviate the distress caused by such failure of crops?

A.—(*a*) The Government have perused articles that have appeared in some of the newspapers, referring to the condition of crops in the Tanjore district.

(*b*) There has been no general failure of the first paddy crop but the second paddy crop has been affected in parts of the district by the partial failure of the north-east monsoon.

(*c*) The Government have issued instructions that all claims to remission should be investigated and settled promptly.

Failure of crops in South Arcot district.

101 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur K. SITARAMA REDDI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the correspondence in the newspapers about the failure of crops in the South Arcot district;

(*b*) whether the Government have information of the extent to which the dry and wet crops have suffered in the district owing to the failure of the monsoon; and

(*c*) what steps the Government propose to take to alleviate the distress caused by such failure of crops?

A.—(*a*) The Government have perused a letter in one newspaper entitled 'Drought in South Arcot district' and an article in another entitled 'Agricultural distress'.

(*b*) The Government have received a special report from the Collector of South Arcot in which he has given information relating to the condition of the standing crops and a rough estimate of the amount of season remission that will probably be granted.

(*c*) The Government have issued orders that all claims to remission should be investigated and settled promptly.

Public Service

Exemption for unpassed clerks from the Public Service Notification.

102 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of unpassed clerks in the Educational department who were confirmed before the year 1917;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that no exemption was needed for the confirmation of unpassed clerks under the Public Service Notification that was in force at that time;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that G.O. No. 1021, Home (Education), dated 6th August 1917, states that all clerks who were officiating in the superior service continuously for three years prior to 6th August 1917 may be confirmed in their appointments;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that when time-scale was introduced on 1st March 1921 the unpassed permanent clerks were also given the benefit of it and increments were allowed for two years;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that suddenly their increments were stopped and they were asked to get themselves exempted;

(*f*) how many of them applied for exemption and how many of them were refused exemption;

(*g*) what is the basis on which exemptions were granted or refused;

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(*h*) how many clerks confirmed before 1917 were refused exemption when their heads of offices have strongly recommended them for exemption ; and

(*i*) whether Government will consider the cases of clerks of long service who have been recommended for exemption by heads of offices ?

A.—(*a*) The information is not available.

(*b*) Under the Public Service Notification in force prior to 6th August 1917, unpassed clerks were eligible for confirmation in posts carrying pay not exceeding Rs. 20.

(*c*) No such instructions were issued in the Government Order quoted. In G.O. No. 991, Home (Education), dated 29th July 1918, the Government directed that unqualified persons who had acted in permanent appointments carrying pay of Rs. 20 per mensem or held temporary appointments on that pay for not less than two years prior to 6th August 1917 would be eligible for confirmation in appointments carrying pay of Rs. 20 a month.

(*d*) & (*e*) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 164, Law (Education), dated 4th February 1925, published on page 66 of Part I-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 17th February 1925.

(*f*), (*g*), (*h*) & (*i*) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 773, Law (Education), dated 3rd May 1926, published on pages 227–28 of Part I-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 1st June 1926, and to G.O. No. 949, dated 5th November 1926, published on pages 2287–88 of Part I of the Gazette, dated 16th November 1926. Exemptions have already been granted in all deserving cases. Statistics in respect of clauses (*f*) and (*h*) are not available.

Tours

Tours of the Members of the Executive Council and Ministers.

103. *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to place before the House a statement showing the relative expenditure on tours of the several Members of the Executive Council and the several Ministers during the last three years and to state what provision (if any) is made for reduction of the cost of such tours in the budget estimates for 1927–28 ?

A.—The following statement gives the expenditure incurred on tours of the Members of the Executive Council and Ministers during each of the last three years :—

Year.	Expenditure incurred on tours of — Members of the Executive Council.	Ministers.
	RS.	RS.
1923–24	53,404	31,550
1924–25	34,407	25,946
1925–26	40,508	37,747

The budget estimates for 1927–28 will be placed before the Council in due course.

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Village Establishments

Restoration of village menials in Nagavedu village.

104 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there were two vettis and two talaiyaris for Nagavedu village, Arkonam taluk, North Arcot district, before it was split up;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a vetti and a talaiyari were not re-appointed during the restoration of groups recently sanctioned;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the village tanks irrigate forty other villages and hence a nirkatti is quite necessary; and

(*d*) whether the hon. Member will be pleased to enquire into the matter and restore the number of village menials to their original strength?

A.—The Government have no information regarding the details referred to. The Government have issued instructions that village menials whose posts were abolished as a measure of retrenchment should be restored and that menials whose posts were abolished as being unnecessary for administrative reasons should not be restored. If the hon. Member's information is correct, this is probably the reason why a vetti and a talaiyari have not been re-appointed. The suggestion in clause (*c*) that a nirkatti should be appointed will be referred to the Collector for disposal.

Irrigation

Repairs and restoration of tanks.

105 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether all the works mentioned in G.O. No. 572, dated 13th December 1912, issued as a result of the conference regarding the repairs and restoration of tanks have been undertaken and completed;

(*b*) if not, which of them have been completed;

(*c*) whether the recommendation of the Irrigation Commission that a sum of 13 lakhs should be spent on tanks for fifteen years has been fully carried out;

(*d*) if not, to what extent, if any, the recommendations of the above Commission have been carried out;

(*e*) whether the Government have any intention of carrying out the recommendations of that Commission in full; and

(*f*) if so, in what time?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*d*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the successive administration reports of the Public Works Department—Part II (Irrigation)—from 1911–12 where the progress in the investigation and execution of tank restoration scheme works from time to time is given.

(*c*) Owing to the necessity for retrenchment in public expenditure during the years immediately after the war, it has not been found possible to allot funds at the rate of Rs. 13 lakhs per annum for expenditure on these works.

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(*e*) & (*f*) The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the speech of the hon. the Law Member during the course of the discussion of a resolution on the subject moved by M.R.Ry. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder at the meeting of the Council on the 26th February 1923 wherein it was observed that, so far as financial circumstances allowed, the Government would increase the budget allotment for minor irrigation works and that the recommendations of the Irrigation Commission would be kept in mind.

Landlord and Tenant

Application for record of rights from some villages in Ganjam district.

106 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of villages in the following estates in the Ganjam district that have applied for record of rights and settlement of money rents since January 1922 up to 1st December 1926:—

(1) Khallikote and Atagada Estates,
(2) Tekkali Estate,
(3) Nandigam Estate,
(4) Dharakota Estate; and

(*b*) the action taken thereon?

A.—The following statement gives the number of villages from which applications were received by Government since January 1922, and the action taken thereon:—

Estate.	Number of villages.	Action taken thereon.
Kallikota and Atagada Estates ..	77 *	Orders were issued in all the cases sanctioning the preparation of record of rights and settlement of rents.
Tekkali	31	
Nandigam	9	
Dharakota	1	

* In one case the preparation of record of rights was directed prior to 1922.

Motor Vehicles Act

Licences to buses running between Katpadi and Vellore.

107 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any rules prohibiting a large number of buses from plying on a single road endangering human lives and interfering with slow country traffic;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that licences have been given to eight buses to run between Katpadi and Vellore, a distance of only 4 miles;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that there is a great traffic of merchandise by bullock carts on this road at all hours;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that great inconvenience and risk is felt by these carts and other traffic by the running of these buses; and

(*e*) whether it is a fact that a former Collector of the district had refused licences to buses on this road?

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A.—(*a*) There is no such general rule. Every motor vehicle plying for hire has to obtain a special permit from the District Magistrate who has got power to specify with due regard to local conditions the roads on which the vehicle can ply. If the running of motor buses on any road is likely to be attended with danger or inconvenience to the public the Government, on the recommendation of the District Magistrate, usually issue a rule under section 11 (2) (*h*) of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, for regulating or prohibiting the running of buses on such road.

(*b*) At present six motor buses are licensed to ply on the road between Katpadi and Vellore.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Government have no reason to think so.

(*e*) Licences appear to have been refused at one time as it was thought that the Palar bridge could not stand motor bus traffic. The district authorities have now satisfied themselves that light buses can be safely allowed on that bridge.

Police

Alleged prevention of an actor from singing patriotic songs.

108 *Q.*—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Circle Inspector of Police, Pollachi in Coimbatore district, prevented an actor belonging to a dramatic company from singing patriotic songs on the stage;

(*b*) whether the Circle Inspector of Police asked the actor to apologise to him for having sung those songs; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the songs were only such as are ordinarily sung at public meetings?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information but have called for a report.

Legislation for combating the betting evil.

109 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Committee appointed to consider the question of legislation for combating the betting evil has submitted its report; and

(*b*) the nature of the action the Government propose to take on the same?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) This is under consideration.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the member.]

II

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE TO DISCUSS THE SENDING OF INDIAN TROOPS TO CHINA.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, under Standing Order 20, I beg leave to move—

for the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the need for the Government of Madras to represent to the Government of India the opinion of this House that it wholly disapproves of the action of the Government of India in sending Indian troops to China, taken as it was without reference to the Legislative Assembly."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I wish to know from the hon. Member for the University whether there is any local importance in this resolution, whether any army located in this area or persons belonging to this area who are in the army are being sent. Has he got that information ? "

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" So far as that is concerned, there is a list published in this morning's *Daily Express* giving the units, Sappers and Miners especially, in which Madrasis are serving, which are being sent. Apart from that, with your leave, may I submit to you, so far as this motion is concerned, that the Standing Orders and Rules are complied with ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have some doubts. Rule 12, sub-clause (v), says ' the motion must not deal with a matter on which a resolution could not be moved '. Does the hon. Member for the University mean that the grounds on which such motions are to be disallowed are exactly the grounds mentioned in rule 23 ? "

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Yes, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" And does he propose to say that the ground mentioned in rule 22 (1), viz., that it relates to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Local Government, is not to be taken into consideration by the President when he is examining whether a motion for adjournment is a motion that cannot be moved ? "

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With great respect, I should submit that rule 22 (1) has nothing to do with what the resolution should satisfy, so far as you are concerned. Because a resolution which comes before you has got first of all to be admitted by you and then after it is admitted by you, the reserve power is vested in the Governor as Head of the Province on either of the two grounds stated in rule 22. So far as rule 23 is concerned, I presume—I speak subject to correction—from your own question that you are satisfied that my motion does not contravene any of the provisions of that rule. It does not affect the relations of His Majesty's Government or the Government of India with any Foreign State ; it does not affect the relations of any of the foregoing authorities with a Prince or Chief, and it is not a matter under adjudication by a court of law. Therefore you are asking me whether the ground stated in 22 (1), that it relates to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Local Government, may not apply to this On that I submit two answers. My first answer is, reading the rules as they stand, that that power is only exercisable by the Governor. I do not think, Sir, that is a

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power which is exercisable by you as President of this Council and, if I may say so, for this excellent reason, that the question as to whether it should be done or not is left to the Governor and is not left to the President. But assuming for one moment that even that is a matter within your province, may I make one submission to you, Sir? According to the well-known precedents of this House, matters which are not primarily or even secondarily the concern of the local Government have been the subject-matter of adjournment motions more than once. May I refer in this connexion to Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar's motion with regard to the Reforms Enquiry Committee's Report, which really is a matter affecting not only the Government of India but even the Parliament, as to the steps that have to be taken to remedy the defects in their working so as to satisfy the wishes of the people? That was discussed on the floor of this House, without any objection. A more conclusive instance, so far as I can judge, is the instance of a motion made by Sir James Simpson on the floor of this House on the 13th March 1925. The motion was

'I beg to move for an adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the situation created in this Presidency by the action of the Legislative Assembly in accepting motions whereby the remission of the contributions of this Presidency has been placed in jeopardy, and the serious effect likely to be produced by such action on the finances of the Province.'

"The motions, Sir, referred to are the removal of cotton excise duty and of salt tax, both of them entirely central subjects. In taking objection to the motion—I was uninstructed in the precedents of the House then and I thought as you think now—I raised this question that it was not a matter which is primarily or even secondarily the concern of the local Government. You also took part, Sir, as the Leader of the Opposition, later on in that discussion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Before you further proceed as to precedents, I may say one thing. In giving rulings in regard to points of order, precedents should not be taken into consideration. It is not parliamentary practice."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Most certainly, Sir. I shall be glad if in one case at least you see that precedents are set aside. The President is not bound like the High Court Judge by his own ruling. But may I suggest that this question has got to be judged, so far as we are concerned, by precedents? I see no reason why we ought to depart from the precedents. I may submit to you, with regard to central subjects, this House has been given more than one opportunity by your predecessors to discuss such questions. After all, I am simply asking that this Government should forward to the Government of India the opinion of this House on a matter which is agitating the public mind. We do not want that one Asiatic nation should be used for the purpose of enslaving another Asiatic nation. We do not want the Chinese to misunderstand us."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" These remarks are unnecessary for giving a ruling on the matter."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am leading up to this ; we are not interfering with the military or the foreign policy of the Government of India. We are only dealing with a domestic matter wherein we ask the Local Government to indicate to the Government of India our opinions as representatives of this

Presidency. That is all I am submitting to you. Therefore taking the precedents as they are, and the Rules and Standing Orders as they stand, there is nothing against this motion going in. I may add that Mr. Patel, the President of the Assembly, also allowed this motion to be made before the Assembly. I leave it in your hands."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Before that, I wish to know whether it comprises the grounds mentioned in rules 22 and 23."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" On that matter you will agree that Standing Orders cannot override the rules."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is the question whether a motion is in order to be examined with reference to rules 22 and 23 or with reference to rule 23 alone ?"

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" My submission is that the points of order which naturally come within your jurisdiction can be only points of order on which you are the final authority. So far as rule 22 is concerned, that specifically vests the right, as to whether it should be allowed or not, in the hands of an outside authority so far as this Council is concerned, namely, 'the Governor may within the period of notice disallow any resolution or any part of a resolution on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to public interest.' With regard to points of order vested in you, Sir, if you come to the conclusion that it is out of order, you have no option but to disallow it. Even assuming that the Governor is constrained to hold that it cannot be moved without detriment to public interest, it is still open to you, so far as the points of order arising in this House are concerned, when once you decide it is in order, to allow it. Whereas in the case of the Governor, the rule contemplates that if the Governor holds that it cannot be moved without detriment to public interest, it is open to him not to exercise his power. So far as you are concerned, I have got to satisfy you with regard to the rules. Then the question arises and you will notice that the Governor as head of the province has got a different responsibility from you. You are only the head of the House, so far as you are concerned. You are only concerned with upholding the traditions and privileges of the House and see that the rules are not broken. Whereas the Governor is the head of the Province and he represents the Government of Madras. Very different considerations may arise in his case. I submit that rule 22 cannot really apply to this question, so far as you are concerned."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I wish to know from the hon. the Law Member whether he considers that the adjournment motion comes in under any of the three grounds mentioned in rule 23."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I with your leave detail my reasons? Sir, in the first place, the point that I wish to make is that under Legislative Council Rule No. 12, the right to move an adjournment of the Council for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance is subject to certain restriction, namely, that the motion must not deal with a matter on which a resolution could not be moved. Therefore the rules affecting not only the question of points of order but questions of admissibility will have to be assimilated as far as possible to the rules that are appurtenant to a resolution."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Regarding that point, without occupying much time, I may say that I hold the view that rule 12 (v) only covers the grounds on which a resolution is to be admitted, and not the form of the resolution. I do not refer to that."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASAWMI AYYAR :—"I go to my next point, namely, that under rule 23, the resolution that is before us deals with the question of the need of the Government of Madras to represent to the Government of India the opinion of the House that it wholly disapproves of the action of the Government of India in sending Indian troops to China, taken as it was without reference to the Legislative Assembly. Notwithstanding the last few words of this resolution, or rather in spite of these words, I submit to you, Sir, that the word 'affecting' in 23 (1) is wide enough to cover cases where the relations of His Majesty's Government and the Government of India with the Foreign State of China may be brought under consideration. The sending of troops, whether it was with reference or without reference to the Legislative Assembly, is only one aspect of these matters. The word 'affecting' is wide in its import and wide in its implications. It may include anything which may partially or totally impinge upon the relations between the Government of India or the Governor in Council with a foreign State although other considerations may be brought into the matter such as consent or non-consent of the Legislative Assembly. My point is that the debate will bring the resolution, namely the discussion of the expediency, whether with or without the consent of the Legislative Assembly, of sending these troops to China, within the wide ambit of the word 'affecting'."

"Nextly, Sir, my point is also that this matter is not primarily the concern of the local Government and, on that point, Sir, I would like to emphasize that it is wholly within your province to deal with that matter under 22 (1) in coming to a conclusion yourself apart from any decision which may be finally arrived at by His Excellency the Governor. To elaborate my point, Sir, I say that under 22 (1) the Governor is given certain rights, but I submit also that those rights are referable to certain matters which have to be taken into account in deciding upon the admissibility of this resolution. You will observe, Sir, that the right to move the adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance is given subject to certain conditions. I say, Sir, and I submit for your consideration, that one of these conditions is that it cannot be moved without detriment to public interest. Another of these conditions is that it relates to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the local Government. The only distinction in that matter is that, whilst it is open to the President to say that it is within the meaning of that rule and therefore disallow it, it is also open to His Excellency the Governor, notwithstanding that you may have given a ruling, to give another ruling which may or may not be in a contrary sense. My point may be summarised thus: that this question comes within 23 (1) (i): the word 'affecting' is wide enough to cover the resolution as worded. Secondly, it is open to you to deal with these two points dealt with in rule 22 (1) in deciding upon the admissibility of this resolution notwithstanding the fact that the Governor is also given the power to decide upon that admissibility."

12-15 p.m.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I wish to know what the hon the Law Member has to say regarding 22 (2). Some grounds regarding disallowance of adjournment motions are specifically mentioned there. Therefore is it not within the province of the Governor if he considers that an adjournment motion is one that is not primarily the concern of the local Government or that it is to the detriment of the public interest, and has he not a right to disallow it ? "

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" There is a cumulative right as well as jurisdiction in certain matters. Whereas in regard to matters under 22 (1) there are two functionaries, viz., the hon. the President and His Excellency the Governor."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT : —" I wish to know from the hon. Member, Mr. Satyamurti, first of all what explanation he has got to give to the interpretation of the hon. the Law Member that this motion comes under 23 (1)."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I was going to deal with these two points. Rule 23 (1) says :—

' Every resolution shall be in the form of a specific recommendation addressed to the Government, and no resolution shall be moved in regard to any of the following subjects, viz.,

(i) any matter affecting the relations of His Majesty's Government, or of the Government of India, or of the Governor or the Governor in Council, with any foreign State;'

" I do not suppose the hon. the Law Member contends that it affects the relations of the Government of India with China or the Governor or the Governor in Council with China. Because there are no relations."

* The hon. Sir. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I do."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am surprised. The Government of India as a subordinate branch of the Imperial Government of Great Britain has nothing to do with the Foreign State of China."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR : —" Sir, the Governor-General is concerned with the Army in India."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Then my surprise becomes greater."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Your contention is that the existence of that condition is a surplusage, because you contend that no such relations can exist ? "

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" So far as China is concerned."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" May I know what foreign States are contemplated in rule 23 (1) (i) ? "

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am not willing to answer a hypothetical question, if I may say so respectfully. I am submitting that the Government of India have no foreign relations with China, the Governor has none and the Governor in Council has less. My hon. Friend can contend only this : viz., that my resolution is a matter affecting the relations of His Majesty's Government with China. Now I submit with some confidence that my motion raises merely a small question, viz., the sending of Indian troops to China for ' purely defensive purposes ' in the words of Lord Irwin, and I therefore restrict it by saying ' we object to sending these troops without reference to the Legislative Assembly '. It is a purely domestic matter, and we want

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that the opinion of this House should be communicated by the Government of Madras to the Government of India on that purely domestic matter, which concerns the Government of India on the one hand and the Assembly on the other. It has nothing whatever to do, directly or indirectly, with the relations of His Majesty's Government with China.

" Sir, with regard to the argument of my hon. Friend in answer to your question whether 22 (1) applies to this resolution, may I submit to you to kindly look at the words of rule 5 (v)? That says: 'The motion must not deal with a matter on which a resolution could not be moved.' It is a penal clause and, as all lawyers know, it has got to be very strictly interpreted. Therefore, my motion must not deal with a matter on which a resolution could not be moved. And rule 23 is the only rule in the Legislative Council Rules which specifies the matters on which resolutions could not be moved. Rule 22 does not purport to say that these are matters on which resolutions could not be moved. I therefore submit, Sir, that rule 22 cannot apply either on the wording of it, or on the interpretation of Rule 12. Because that rule is a prohibitive rule. And it prohibits what? It prohibits those matters being dealt with in resolutions which are so stated in 23, that no resolution shall be moved, etc. You will see that rule 22 does not say that no resolutions shall be moved on a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Local Government. Resolutions can be moved upon that, but the rule reserves to the Governor the power, if he so feels, to disallow resolutions on those matters. I hope I am making myself clear on these two categories. One category is the absolute prohibition of matters with regard to which resolutions can never be moved in this House, and the other category is prohibition with regard to resolutions admitted by you, unless they contravene this penal clause, but which may be disallowed by the Governor. On those two grounds, rule 22 (2) says that the Governor may disallow notwithstanding the consent of the President. I use it as an argument in my favour. They knew what they were about. They therefore contemplated that a President, situated as you are, may have to allow these motions for adjournment so long as they do not contravene any of the provisions of rule 23. Therefore they reserved to the Governor. . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is it not possible to construe that 'notwithstanding the consent of the President' means that the President may have to take into consideration these grounds as well? Even if any such motions are allowed by the President, His Excellency has the right to disallow them."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" No, Sir. Because, that concern is not that of the President. You will notice that this expression is not used here for the first time. Rule 11 says :

'A motion for an adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance may be made with the consent of the President.'

" So that, the consent of the President has got to be given to it, before it is made. The stage at which we have now reached is not your consent stage, but the stage at which you have to give a ruling on the point of order raised."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to give a ruling now whether the adjournment motion is in order or not."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Yes, your consent was obtained by me to make this motion, subject to your ruling. What I mean is that rule 11 contemplates that a motion may be made with the consent of the President. That is rule 11. Afterwards, when we go to rule 22, you will notice that the words 'notwithstanding the consent of the President' are put in in order to pay due respect to the high office you occupy. You will further notice that under rule 22 (1), the resolutions are disallowed by the Governor on those two grounds. So far as that is concerned, you do not come in specifically. So far as 22 (2) is concerned, the Governor is given power to disallow this motion on grounds as aforesaid notwithstanding the consent of the President. I therefore submit, Sir, that that rule contemplates that the President may allow these motions to be moved, in fact, will have to allow them so long as they do not contravene any of the provisions of rule 23. Otherwise, Sir, it is a surplusage. That is the final submission I want to make to you. Supposing the hon. the Law Member is correct, then it comes to this : that you have got to decide in the first instance that this motion is not contrary to public interest, and that it does not relate to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the local Government, and the Governor is constituted as a kind of appellate authority over you."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Further difficulties are put in my way by your argument. You mean to say that the President has to exercise his discretion in two ways : first of all he has to give his consent whether the ordinary business of the House is to be suspended or not and when once such a consent is given he has further to examine whether the motion is in order or not. So you give me absolute discretion to decide whether such motions are to be made or not."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" And I give it confidently, because we know that the Presidents of this House are always democratic and would like to carry the House with them. But, Sir, the point on which I was before I resumed my seat and the point to which I would like to draw attention very particularly is this : Look at the argument of the hon. the Law Member. He wants to have two authorities to decide this question, as to whether this motion is a motion which can be made without detriment to public interest, or is not a motion concerning a matter which is the primary concern of the local Government. My difficulty is that then it means that His Excellency may disallow it even before the question is examined by the President whether it is in order or not."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Suppose I call upon the hon. Member to move the adjournment motion giving him my consent. Then, His Excellency according to rule 22 (2) can disallow it at that stage."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Yes, Sir ; but the Governor does not get possession of these motions, unless they are admitted by you in the ordinary course. That is to say, you must say that they are in order and then objection is to be taken."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" In that case, the force of the words 'after the admission of a resolution by the President and by the House, the Governor has got the power to disallow it' is doubtful."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" In fact, I am willing to allow for theoretical purposes that at this moment a message may come from the Governor saying that this cannot be discussed without detriment to public interest."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Do you think it is possible ? "

* Mr S. SATYAMURTI :—" I contemplate it theoretically. It will not happen, because the Governor will not be in official possession of a motion, until your office reports to him in the normal course of events that such a motion has been allowed or is going to be discussed to-day or to-morrow. But the point is this : if according to the hon. the Law Member you have got to decide in the first instance whether the motion contravenes or does not contravene rule 22, he reduces the position of the hon. the President to an authority giving an opinion on these points of order, subject to a statutory and continual revision by the Governor. Is that what he contemplates ? Does he contemplate that you must in the first instance decide these two questions and then, over your head, the Governor must say : ' I do not agree with the President. I think it contravens 23 (1) '. I do not think the framers of the Government of India Act contemplated that. I do not think they have introduced diarchy into these rules. First with regard to prohibition contained in 23, you are the supreme authority and once you give that opinion the Governor can have nothing to do with it.

" But in regard to two other matters which are vested in the Governor, your mind is not drawn to it. You do not give any opinion, and it is for His Excellency the Governor and his advisers to decide whether they ought to allow this motion or not. I therefore submit, consistent with our own precedents, Rules and Standing Orders that this matter does not appear to come under ' foreign relations '. The question whether it comes under ' not primarily the concern of the local Government ' is a matter for His Excellency the Governor to decide, and surely even assuming that it is a thing which has got to be decided by you, I submit all our previous Presidents have been consistently in favour of allowing subjects which were purely in the nature of Central subjects to be discussed on the floor of this House, by adjournment motions and as such this motion can be allowed by you." 12-30 p.m.

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" My only excuse for venturing to speak on the subject is that the policy underlying these rules has been adverted to and with your permission I should like to place for your consideration one or two aspects relating to the policy of these rules. It was objected that it was not likely to have been within the contemplation of the framers of these rules that these two aspects namely ' detriment to public interests ' and ' primarily not the concern of the local Government ' should have been vested for decision by you. I say the argument is very cogently the other way."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" If you compare the rules regarding questions and resolutions you will find that in the case of questions the President has got the power of examining these aspects namely ' detrimental to public interests ' and whether it is ' primarily not the concern of the local Government '. These grounds are not mentioned in the case of resolutions in rule 23."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am indebted to you for having pointed out that to me. As an argument in furtherance of my contention and as a means of interpreting the phrase ' notwithstanding the consent of the President ', I submit that ' detriment to public interests ' and being ' primarily the concern of the local Government ' are matters within the

purview and the jurisdiction of the hon. the President and the rule is applicable both to questions and resolutions inasmuch as the phrase 'notwithstanding the consent of the President' which occurs in rule 22 (3) is susceptible of two meanings. My contention is that it is not likely that the framers of the rules would have had in their minds contradictory canons of conduct with reference to rules relating to questions and those relating to adjournment motions. *Afortiori* the argument can be made with reference to adjournment motions which are of greater import than questions. If therefore in regard to questions Presidents have been vested with the authority to decide upon the two aspects, viz., being 'primarily the concern of the local Government and 'detriment to public interest' my contention is that the phrase 'notwithstanding the consent of the President' means, that in giving consent he has these points also to be kept in view, though notwithstanding he has kept those points in view the Governor may disallow the motion. I wish to enforce that argument by an appeal to another set of considerations. My hon. Friend, the Member for the University, said that His Excellency the Governor was, as it were, an appellate authority. Not necessarily, because there are certain matters which are particularly to be concerned by the President without any inside knowledge of Governmental machinery, when he decides whether the discussion is 'detrimental to public interests' or 'not primarily the concern of the local Government.' I do not want to be misunderstood by my hon. Friends on the other side when I say this. Supposing a motion for adjournment in regard to an earthquake in Fiji was made, surely apart from all other considerations, it ought to be within the competence and jurisdiction of the President to say that it is neither primarily the concern of the local Government, nor are our public interests involved in that matter. Of course I am putting an extreme illustration and I do not suppose, for a moment, that any hon. Member is going to do that, but that is an obvious case where the President is entitled or may be entitled according to the real construction of the rules to come to a decision. I am using this argument for the purpose of showing that, although with the material or the information placed before the President, the President should come to the conclusion that it is not detrimental to public interests or primarily the concern of the local Government, yet there may be other facts which are exclusively or particularly within the knowledge of His Excellency the Governor which may make him dissent from the decision of the President. My argument therefore is that the word 'notwithstanding' is used so as not to make the rules self-contradictory of each other but to reconcile the one with the other. I submit it will be possible to reconcile the various rules by the argument which I have put forward. I desire particularly to draw the attention of the President to the word 'affecting' which is used in rule 23 (1) (i). No serious argument is put forward on that point and the expression 'affecting' has got a wide range, import and meaning and the effect of the use of such an expression has not been canvassed in all its bearings. I submit this resolution, as it is worded, would come within the mischief of rule 23, sub-rule (1)."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think under the rules the President has to examine whether consent is to be given for moving such an adjournment motion. Now it is too late for me to examine that question having myself given the consent for making this motion. And when once consent is given by

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the President he has to examine the motion whether it is in order or not, only if the grounds mentioned in rule 23 (1) (i), (ii) and (iii) are satisfied. I am not convinced that this is a matter which comes under 23 (1). Therefore I have to say that the motion is in order.

" Has the hon. Member leave of the House to make the motion."

* The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I object to the leave being granted."

* The hon. the President :—" Those who are in favour of allowing the motion to be moved may stand in their places. (More than 20 Members stood in their places.)

" As more than 20 Members have stood up in their places, I declare that the hon. Member has the leave of the House to move the motion and the discussion will begin at 2–30 p.m. to-day."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar stood up to make a statement.

* The hon. the President :—" Since the hon. the Law Member is not in his seat, no advantage will be gained by Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar making his statement now. I think he may make his statement after lunch just before we begin the discussion on the adjournment motion."

Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" On a point of order, Sir. May I know what the Government are going to do with those oral questions which have not been answered. They have allowed some oral questions and since Mr. Satyamurti's motion involved so much time, the time allotted for questions and answers is now over. We have not been able to get the answers for these oral questions, nor have we been able to put any supplementary questions."

* The hon. the President :—" Since a question that has been answered cannot be put again, the hon. Member has the right of giving fresh notice for such questions."

* The Raja of Ramnad :—" The method that is being adopted, viz., that these few questions will be answered orally seems to be a novel procedure not sanctioned by the Rules. I submit that the procedure deprives us of having the answers one hour before the question time when we would have the facility of forming our supplementary questions. I looked into the Rules and Standing Orders and found no sanction whatsoever for giving answers orally. The answers have to be made available to Members one hour before question time I submit for your consideration whether this is a correct procedure at all and whether the Government should not give their answers one hour earlier."

* The hon. the President :—" With regard to this question of oral answers, these questions were sent to Government with shorter notice and the Government waived their objection to this shorter notice. I think the Raja of Ramnad will agree with me when I say that the practice in this House has been that such questions as were given shorter notice of are answered orally and these questions are questions with short notice. I do not think any objection can be raised."

* The Raja of Ramnad :—" When questions are asked on short notice on the floor of the House the concerned Member of the Government may

answer them orally; here it has been in the list of questions and answers intended for the day and I do not think an hon. Member of the Government is entitled to answer such questions orally."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have already ruled that hon. Members of the Government have got the right of giving oral answers regarding questions for which shorter notice has been given, because they have to waive the ordinary objection as to the period of notice."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Before we enter the next item on the agenda, I may bring to your notice, Mr. President, that Government in response to the wishes . . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" If any hon. Member wants to make any reference to any particular procedure he has first of all to speak to the President before he wants to move the same after question time. Since Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo has not taken my consent for such a procedure I cannot allow him to speak."

III

ALLOTMENT OF DAYS FOR NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Hon. Members have already been informed that His Excellency the Governor has allotted for non-official business 28th February, 14th March and 29th March. I have now to announce that His Excellency the Governor has fixed 30th March instead of the 28th February with the result that the days for non-official business will be 14th, 29th and 30th March "

IV

AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS—ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that for the Select Committee on the amendments to the Standing Orders of the Council the following Members have been elected :—

Mr. S. Satyamurti.
,, S. Muthiah Mudaliyar.
,, J. A. Saldanha.
,, T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
,, A. Balakrishna Chetti.
Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar

" As the number of candidates nominated for election is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely, six, I hereby declare the above-mentioned gentlemen to be duly elected under Regulation II (4) of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote.

" I have already nominated Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar, a Chairman of the Council, to serve on the Committee under Standing Order 77."

V

MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

AMENDMENTS TO THE FAMINE CODE—*cont.*

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The resolution of the hon. Member, the 12-45 p.m. Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri, as amended by the amendment of Mr. K. V. R. Swami, is now before the House for discussion."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Sir, I would like first to congratulate the hon. Member the Kumara Raja on his maiden speech. (Hear, hear.) He has begun well and I hope we shall continue to hear him in this House on many occasions."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order. The hon. the Deputy President will now take the chair for the first time."

The hon. the Deputy President (Mrs. S. Muthulakshmi Reddi) then took the chair amidst applause.

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" Before taking the chair I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the Council which has conferred on me this unique honour so unanimously and so whole-heartedly. My elevation to this seat I consider as not so much an honour to me personally as to the whole of Indian womanhood. This Presidency, so far as the women's cause is concerned, has been very unique is many a respect. It was the first in granting the franchise to women, and then in admitting one of them to this Council. It has now earned the unparalleled distinction of electing her to the post of Deputy President of this Council unsolicited and unasked, thereby authorizing her to guide its deliberations. I hope and I am sure that our Presidency will take the lead in initiating many reforms conducive to the welfare of my sex. Such action on your part speaks very highly of your wisdom, statesmanship and magnanimity and, above all, of the honour and esteem in which you hold your women. You have demonstrated to the world that you have rightly understood the power and influence of women not only in the inner life of your homes but also in the wider sphere of your public activities. In conclusion, I wish to express to the hon. Members of this Council that I have accepted the onerous responsibilities with the full hope that I can always count upon your sympathy, co-operation and support which has already been assured to me by your unanimous vote. With these few words, I take the chair." (Applause.)

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Deputy President, Madam, I am sorry I have to continue the uninteresting subject of the amendment of the Famine Code. I should state at the outset that the hon. Member the Mover of the resolution is under a misapprehension as to the scope of the sections which he seeks to amend. I shall illustrate my meaning by an example. Supposing a famine work is estimated to cost Rs. 5,000—it may be the digging of a tank—and that work will yield a return of three per cent, therefore it will not be profitable to undertake it ordinarily. During the famine year it can be undertaken as it would afford scope for employment in the locality. If such a work is in a ryotwari tract, the returns from that work would go to the benefit of the public revenues. The whole cost would also be met from the public revenues. If, however, the tank is in a zamindari area, the benefit of the work would go to the proprietor, and it is therefore not unreasonable to expect him to bear a portion of the cost. The

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Famine Code provides in such cases for an agreement beforehand with the proprietor whereby he would undertake to pay a portion of the cost of the work, the balance being met by the Government. The Code further provides that if the work is entrusted to the proprietor himself to carry out, he should, in the case I have taken as an example, be given a subsidy of Rs. 2,000, while the other Rs. 3,000 should be met out of his own pocket. There is further a provision that if he wants a loan to meet his own portion of the cost, he may be given a loan. *Ex hypothesi* there is no reason why that loan should be given to him at a favourable rate of interest. It is the money that he has himself to pay and represents the cost of the works for which he has to pay. The resolution makes no change in the existing practice except that it specifies the rate of interest on the loan. Perhaps this will be more favourable than the existing practice, because Government charge a higher rate of interest to private individuals than to local bodies. In any case, having regard to the kinds of cases the Code contemplates, there is really no necessity for amending it in the manner proposed. It was mentioned in the course of the debate that the proprietor would bear the cost of the whole work. I doubt if the proprietors themselves understood the matter in this way. As it is, there is nothing to preclude any proprietor from bearing the whole cost of the work. Government would surely meet him in the matter of loans on that basis. But that is not what the section proposed to be amended contemplates."

* The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" May I ask the hon. the Revenue Member what is the rate of interest charged for loans to private individuals ? "

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I shall answer that question if it is put at question time in the ordinary way.

" I have now said all I have got to say. My opinion is that there is really no need for this amendment at all. But if the House thinks otherwise, the rule as proposed to be amended will mean much the same as it does now."

The KUMARARAJA OF VENKATAGIRI :—" Madam, it is unnecessary for me to add to what I stated yesterday. The hon. Member for Revenue made some observations which would apply to some cases only. I understood him to say that the Government would give a free subsidy of Rs. 2,000 for every Rs. 5,000 spent by the zamindar on such famine-relief works."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I only took an illustration for explaining my point ; it is not a fixed proportion."

The KUMARARAJA OF VENKATAGIRI :—" I did not hear the hon. Member's speech distinctly, Sir. What I submit is that there may be some zamindars who may like to undertake the whole work with the help of the loans given by the Government, if the loans are given at a favourable rate of interest. I do not think that the hon. the Revenue Member will have any objection to amend the section in the way in which I want it to be amended. Of course there are some zamindars for whom subsidies are welcome ; there are also others to whom a loan is more welcome than a subsidy. And I do not think that Government can have any objection to grant a loan in the place of a subsidy. I commend this resolution to the acceptance of this House."

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Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" Madam, I rise to oppose this resolution. The resolution at first sight does not appear to be as objectionable as it really is."

Mr. K. SARABA REDDI :—" May I rise to a point of order? Is the hon. Member in order in speaking on the resolution after the reply of the Government Member and the hon. Mover of the resolution?"

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I may tell hon. Members that Mr. Narayana Raju is in order in making this speech since this is the first time he is speaking on this motion."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" The section in the Famine Code, section 21 (*a*), contemplates an agreement between the Collector and the zamindar in advance of the famine year. There is no obligation on the part of the zamindar to enter into any agreement with the Collector in the discharge of his responsibilities to his subjects. But in view of the advantages and benefits that may accrue to him he may enter into an agreement before the famine actually occurs. The resolution does not change that position. But when the Collector calls upon the zamindar to undertake the works in the discharge of his obligations contained in the agreement, the Collector is asked to lend monies on favourable terms.

" That is a condition which is being superimposed on an agreement which 1 p.m. was freely contracted into by mutual negotiations. It is all one-sided business. There is no corresponding obligation imposed on the part of the zamindar to execute any kind of works. The position, as it stands, is this. Each party has got the freedom of contract; the zamindar and the Collector have got full freedom of contract. If they are going to enter into any agreement under section 21, the zamindar may negotiate and fix up the terms on which loans may be advanced to him when he undertakes to execute the works. There is nothing to forbid him to stipulate the terms on which the loan is to be advanced and on which he can undertake the works. There is full freedom of contract left to him as the position now stands. If the Collector according to this resolution has to find money to execute works for which there was an undertaking already, it is against all principles of justice.

" In this connexion, I would like to ask a few questions of the hon. the Mover of the resolution and the hon. the Revenue Member. Are there any agreements as are contemplated under section 21 (*a*) entered into by any zamindars in the Presidency and the Government and in particular is there any such agreement between the Raja of Venkatagiri and the Government?"

(At this stage the hon. the President took the Chair.)

(The hon. Member, Kumararaja of Venkatagiri, rose to interrupt.)

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is it a point of order?"

The KUMARARAJA OF VENKATAGIRI :—" No, Sir. I wish to reply to the questions put by my hon. Friend."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member may note the questions that may be put to him and he may answer them if necessary at the end."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" If it is meant by this resolution that the Government should come to the aid of the zamindars who have entered into contracts under the existing terms, it is not right and the resolution should not commend itself to this House. If they had already entered into an

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agreement with the Government to execute certain works under certain conditions, they did so with their eyes wide open. There is a legal obligation on their part to respect those obligations and they can legally be enforced. If there is no legal obligation imposed by those agreements and if it is only a voluntary agreement, then of course it is expected that the zamindar would keep up to his word and respect the obligations he has entered into. If the resolution is to help the parties in connexion with past agreements, it cannot be said to be bona fide. If this resolution is meant to impose an obligation upon the Collector to find money for the works which the zamindars have already undertaken to execute, the resolution cannot be said to be bona fide. If the resolution is to apply only to future agreements, there is no need at all for this resolution. Because, if at any future time a zamindar or land-owner wants to enter into an agreement with the Government, it is open to him to negotiate for the terms mentioned in the resolution. There is nothing standing in his way to fix the terms on which the Government should lend him money whenever he is called upon to execute certain works. Therefore, this resolution is not commendable. If it is meant to impose any conditions on the Government to lend money to the zamindars, it is a matter for legislation and not for a resolution of this kind. There may be legislation imposing on the zamindars on the one hand certain conditions on which they should execute certain works and imposing certain terms under which the Government should lend money. When such matters arise in future, the legislature may create arbitration boards to decide them. If there is an obligation on the zamindar to execute certain works according to a previous agreement, the proposal that the Collector should lend money in such cases should not commend itself to the House. The effect of passing the resolution will be that the freedom of contract on the part of one party is being curtailed. With these words, I oppose the resolution."

*The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" Mr. President, in the first place I should, like the hon. the Revenue Member, congratulate my young hon. Friend, the Kumararaja of Venkatagiri for the excellent manner in which he made his speech yesterday. I have been in the Council for over 12 years and I may say at once that new Members, not excluding platform orators, in their maiden speeches had not done better."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" May I know if the hon. Member is in order in making these remarks ? "

*The hon. the PRESIDENT : —" Such complimentary speeches are allowed."

*The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" I am afraid, Sir, that the matter has been misunderstood by some hon. Members of the House. The previous speaker, the hon. Member from Godavari at any rate, has inferred from the resolution that there is an attempt to annul existing agreements. I venture to say that there is no intention on the part of the hon. Member, the Kumararaja of Venkatagiri, or of those who think with him in this matter to indirectly make any such attempt. This resolution asks the Government to help the zamindars in future with loans on favourable terms, particularly when famine works have to be undertaken.

" I may be permitted to state that the zamindari area is very nearly one-third of this Presidency ; the zamindars and their ryots are not entitled to any concession at the hands of the Government during famine times ; they are not entitled to any remission. The zamindars have necessarily to

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get the rents from their ryots without affording them any relief as the former are not entitled to any remission of their kist. It is quite necessary therefore that the Government should render all assistance to the zamindars.

"I may be permitted to invite the attention of the hon. the Revenue Member and the House to section 180 (*b*) of the Famine Code under which State aid is given to landowners for private works. The hon. the Mover of the resolution confined his attention only to loans. A comprehensive discussion took place yesterday over this resolution and it was urged by some hon. Members that the Government should not give subsidies to zamindars for such works. I hope the Government will now at least take a correct view that the request of the hon. the Mover is purely with reference to loans and it has nothing to do with regard to State aids.

"Yesterday, the hon. Member, Mr. Biswanath Das, said that the resolution as moved by the hon. Member the Kumararaja and the amendment moved were more or less the same regarding the rate of interest. I was trying to find out how he came to that conclusion. I think that, after all my investigations, what he said is not correct. As a decision of the House has already been reached with regard to the interest to be charged, I shall not deal with it to-day. But I think, Sir, that loans should be given at a favourable rate of interest and they should be made recoverable as in the case of Agricultural Loans Act, if they are to be freely applied for and utilized. I am glad that though the hon. Mover of this resolution comes from a zamindari family, he represents here a general constituency; I am glad that he brought forward this resolution on behalf of the zamindars as well as of the ryots. I may assure the House that in cases like these it is the ryots who will be benefited more than the zamindars. I strongly support the resolution."

Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib:—"I move that the question be now put."

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar:—"I second the motion."

The closure motion was put to the House and carried.

The resolution as amended was also put to the House and adopted.

CANCELLATION OF THE MAPPILLA ANDAMANS COLONIZATION SCHEME.

* Mr. K. V. P. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar:—"Sir, I beg to move— 1-15 p.m.

'*That this Council recommends to the Government to take immediate steps to get the Mappilla Andamans colonization scheme cancelled, to bring back all free men, women and children taken to the Andamans in pursuance of the scheme and to bring back all Malabar rebellion prisoners to Indian Jails.*'

"In rising to move this resolution I am inspired on the one hand by the weight of authority which the subject matter of my resolution has obtained from the decisions of the previous Council, and discouraged on the other by the presence on the Treasury Bench of the same hon. Member whose indefatigable advocacy of the benefits of the colonization scheme has verily made his regime, if not for anything else, a matter of historic recollection to generations of the Mappilla community.

" This question having been elaborately discussed both on the floor of this House as well as outside, it is not necessary for me to deal with the matter in detail. Still as many of the hon. Friends are new to the House, I shall just refer to the salient features of the scheme.

" The Jail Committee, presided over by no less a person than Sir Alexander Cardew, once acting Governor of Madras, after elaborate enquiry, reported in 1920 that the Andaman Islands were unfit for human habitation on sanitary, moral and economic grounds and recommended the abandonment of the Islands as penal settlement. The Government of India accepted the recommendation, acted upon it and stopped sending further convicts to the Andamans, the convicts who were subsequently sentenced to transportation having been detained in Indian Jails. As a result of the Malabar rebellion which broke out in August 1921 it is said that a large number of Mappilla prisoners convicted of offences connected with the rebellion had to be sent to the Andamans on the ground that there was not sufficient accommodation in Indian Jails, though it was in violation of the above resolution of the Government of India. About 1922, Sir Arthur Knapp, who was Special Commissioner for Malabar during rebellion and who was subsequently the Home Member of the Government of Madras, invented this scheme by which he evidently intended to solve that problem of the Mappilla trouble by getting rid of as many Mappillas as possible, male and female, young and old from the rebellion area in Malabar. In execution of this plan, a Deputy Collector by name Mr. Kunhiraman Nayar was sent round to the Andamans to do propaganda among the Mappilla prisoners and make them apply to the Government to take their families to the Andamans and to make them write to their families to go over to the Andamans with the permission of the Government. The same Deputy Collector also went to Bellary Jail to persuade Mappilla prisoners there to apply to the Government to transfer them to the Andamans and to allow them to take their families with them. On the authority of the report of this Deputy Collector, a very loyal obedient servant of the Government, the Report of the Jail Committee was thrown into the scrap-heap so far as Mappilla prisoners and their innocent and ignorant families were concerned and the Andamans were restored as a penal settlement to the Mappilla prisoners and the Government declared it as a paradise for the free, innocent and ignorant Mappilla women and children to go and settle there with their convict relations. It is noteworthy that this mysterious report of this Deputy Collector, Mr. Kunhiraman Nayar, on the strength of which the recommendations of the Jail Committee presided over by Sir Alexander Cardew were given the go by has never seen the light of day, the Government having refused to place it on the table of this House in spite of repeated demands. It is under this secret and most scandalous circumstance that Sir Arthur Knapp gave birth to this his pet scheme and he has left it as a legacy to his successor, a Muslim who holds it as part of his duty to carry out the behest of his predecessor and send innocent and ignorant Mappilla women and children to the valley of death and degradation, otherwise known as the Andamans.

" Under this scheme each Mappilla prisoner who takes his family is allotted a small plot of land to cultivate and a small sum of Rs. 200 also is given by way of loan repayable with interest at 6½ per cent within a period of four years. Neither the prisoner nor his family is entitled even to any occupancy right in respect of the land so cultivated. His claim to any occupancy right

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under the scheme could be considered only on the expiry of five years after the termination of his sentence which ordinarily is twenty years. I refer to this only as an instance of the so-called facilities given by the Government to the Mappilla settlers.

"The essence of the scheme lies in extending the punishment meted out to the Mappilla rebels to their families as well as their kith and kin who are absolutely innocent of any crime. The ground alleged by the Government to justify the barbarous act of transporting innocent women and children to the Andamans is that these women and children have consented to go there of their own free will. In the first place it is under misrepresentation and undue influence of local Police officials and the prisoners under police custody that these women and children are made to give the so-called consent which is no consent at all. In the second place, even assuming for the sake of argument that these ignorant folk consent to go to the Andamans which is the most injurious place on moral, sanitary and economic grounds, is it fair or proper on the part of any civilized Government to permit them to do such a suicidal act? The most objectionable feature of this scheme is the moral one. The Jail Committee has condemned the moral conditions prevailing in the Islands in the strongest terms.

"Paragraph 552 of their report states: 'It is not necessary to quote further opinions on this subject in order to establish the fact that the present position of morality in the Andamans is bad and that no reform would have any chances of being successful unless the introduction of an adequate proportion of women was assured.' Also I cannot do better than quote the report of the recent deputation including two hon. Members of the House, viz., Mr. Abbas Ali and Mr. Schamnad who say 'even married women while quite young pass hands just like ordinary currency.' (Shame.)

"According to them the proportion of women there is one to ten. They further say that the moral atmosphere of the Island is demoralising, putrid, foul and shocking. In this state of affairs, it is a very barbarous act on the part of the Government to transport ignorant, free and innocent women and children to a place where morality is almost entirely absent. Above all it is not consistent with principles of any civilized form of Government to make free and innocent folk associate with criminals even though the latter may be the relations of the former.

"The attitude of the Government in this matter seems to be actuated by revenge on Mappillas on the one side and exploitation of Mappilla labour for the benefit of European planters on the other. The manner in which the recommendations of the majority report of the recent deputation sent by the Government to enquire into the question were rejected was most insulting to the signatories who were the representatives of the people in this Council and in the Assembly and who had undergone very great sacrifice and suffering in going to and conducting the inquiry in the Andamans. The Government was profuse in expressing its gratitude to Dr. Muga Seth for having supported the scheme. But I take this opportunity of congratulating the signatories of the majority report for having spoken the truth.

"I therefore beg to move this motion standing in my name and earnestly trust that every lover of humanity in this Council will vote for this resolution." (Applause.)

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Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—" As a Member of the committee appointed by the Government of India to enquire into the conditions of Mappillas in the Andamans and the general conditions in . . . "

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member may formally second the resolution, and after lunch, he may make his speech."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—" In seconding the resolution brought forward by my hon. Friend, Mr. Ravuttar, I beg to say . . . . "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT : —" You may make your speech after luncheon time."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—" I request the President to allow me to say some words, as I will be absent after lunch."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Then the hon. Member has to finish his speech very soon."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" We want to hear him, Sir."

Mr MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—" As a member of the committee appointed by the Government of India to visit the Andamans to enquire into the condition of the Mappilla settlers there, some remarks on the subject from me may not perhaps be out of place. We visited the Andamans in December 1925. The Andamans are a group of islands in the Bay of Bengal, about 200 in number, only three of which are inhabited. They run from north to south, and the convict settlement is in the south-east corner and the southern island which is called Port Blair is about 15 miles distant from the coast. These islands are covered with thick jungles. A small portion has been cleared of jungles by these persons and generally settlers are placed there. These Mappilla villages are really villages in the midst of these jungles, and these Mappillas are asked to clear the jungles and form small villages just below the jungles. The jungles are infested by wild tribes, some of whom have not yet been brought under control; and generally, whenever they find an opportunity, they kill these settlers with their deadly arrows. One of such tribes is called the Jaravas and there are many instances in which some settlers were killed and some of the Mappillas were wounded; and we actually saw some who were wounded. Then, Sir, the settlers are living in villages in small houses built of leaves and they are built on a level with the surrounding ground. In a place where eight or nine months are wet and only three or four months are dry, the condition is really pitiable; because they have to sleep on wet ground. They have no wells for taking drinking water, and whenever they want drinking water, they have to resort to the jungle streams. When we went there and examined the place, we saw that most of them were suffering from malaria or at least from the after-effects of malaria Many of them had enlarged spleen.

1-30 p.m. " When we asked them about their desire to continue there, almost all of them said that they would prefer to go to Indian jails rather than remain in the island, and that they would send their wives and children home. Of course, first they said that they were not prepared to say anything in the presence of the officers who were present there, the tahsildars and also the district officer. The district officer, Mr. Robertson, was very sympathetic, and when he told the convicts through a tahsildar that they could speak freely without any fear, then all of them came forward and said that they would go back to the Indian jails, but not remain in those islands which were

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a veritable pandemonium. These people were living in about nine villages and we visited almost all of them except one which was not accessible and we had to pass through marshy places and there are some portions to be crossed by means of steam launches. In all villages we visited this is the condition of the people and this is their desire. Except three or four persons who were appointed as village officers or village chowkidars and so on, all the rest were willing that they should be sent back. These three or four persons also said that, if the others were to go, they would also follow them. Then it was suggested by some tahsildars to the Commissioner—who questioned them about the discrepancy in their former reports and the present statements of the prisoners—or the tahsildars are said to have told the Commissioner that because there was an idea in the minds of the prisoners that a deputation would come to make enquiries into their condition and they would release them all, the prisoners said that they were willing to go back. When the Commissioner told us this circumstance, we again went to the villages and told the convicts that not only had we no power to release them, but had not the power even to recommend their release. We also told them that they must remember that if they were to go to Indian jails the conditions in at least some of the Indian jails were very bad, especially Bellary jail. So we told them 'Why not remain here instead of going back to Indian jails where the conditions may be very bad?' And they said they would rather go to any jail than remain there. All these facts were reported to the Commissioner, and nothing happened until we left the place. Of course, the Commissioner seemed to be very sympathetic also, but he depended upon the reports of the tahsildars, one of whom was a Muhammadan and another was a Malayali. There were four tahsildars, but the convicts did not complain much about the other tahsildars. Of course, when we were leaving the island I said to the convicts that they might suffer for their indiscretion in speaking freely . . ."

At this stage Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan rose to speak.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is it a point of order that the hon. Member wishes to raise?"

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" May I ask the hon. Member to let us have some information?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Hon. Members have no such right."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—" Sir, a few days or a few weeks before our visit, the Home Member of the Government of India, Sir Alexander Muddiman, had visited the place He had to remain there only two or three days and visited only one or two roadside villages, and he could not get correct information because he had to depend upon the tahsildars and the prisoners were not allowed to approach the Home Member. They were told that if they spoke freely they would be . . ."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" What about the civil women and children?"

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—" All these things were mentioned in our report which we submitted to the Government of India. The result of the visit of the Home Member is contained in a resolution of the Government of India published some time in March or April last. Therein he speaks of the capabilities of the island and its importance as a naval base and all that, and adds that it is necessary to improve the island. But he could not say

anything about the conditions of the Mappillas there. But after our report, another resolution was passed by the Government of India. That was, I think, in November last. In that resolution they criticized our report as inaccurate and all that, but none of the facts mentioned in our report has been clearly contradicted. Only some general remarks and criticisms depending on the statements or reports received from the local authorities there, were made in that resolution. When the Home Member sent us to the Andamans, perhaps he fully believed that the Mappillas are all happy there, depending upon the reports of the local authorities there. But from the resolution of the Government of India it will be seen that he was quite disappointed at the report we submitted. So he shows his disappointment in the language used in drafting that report.

"As for moral conditions of the island, the morality of the people, I think the less said about them the better. All particulars are contained in our report itself and many hon. Members might have seen that report, and I do not think I need dilate upon it. One of the members of our committee, Mr. Mugaseth, who was following our own views for some time left us. He had no such idea before, but at Calcutta he separated from us. He was also of the same view as others of us, except the view that as they are prisoners they have to put up with all these difficulties. That is all the difference we found between himself and ourselves. In some places when we heard the woeful tales of these prisoners, some of us had actually to shed tears and even Dr. Mugaseth who submitted a dissenting minute found in some of the villages that most of the chucklers and others were suffering on account of the malarial fever and other inconveniences. This Andamans Colonization scheme has been a puzzle to me as to why the Government should persist in this scheme. The motives that have actuated the Government who are pursuing the scheme ought to be one of three or all the three, either to improve the condition of the Mappillas by giving them good lands for cultivation; or they must be actuated by a spirit of revenge; or they must be actuated by a desire to improve the island, to make it more productive, cultivable and habitable for some future people.

"Now, let us take these three points one by one. The first is to improve the condition of the Mappillas by giving them lands for cultivation, etc. If that is a fact, they ought to have considered the condition of the Mappillas for all these years. That they have not done. On the other hand, the whole country is against the scheme. All consider that this scheme is not for the benefit of the Mappillas and it is against their interests. I think it was the last Council that passed a resolution almost unanimously condemning the scheme. When such is the case, I do not think that the Government will persist in saying that it is for the good of Mappillas.

"The second point is that they have taken up the scheme in a spirit of revenge, for the seditious disloyalty of the Mappillas. Well, Sir, that also I do not think is likely just as the first argument also is not likely; because a powerful Government such as the British Government cannot be actuated by any such vindictive spirit against a subject race. If that is so, they would not desire to continue such a scheme for their good. So I do not think that revenge would be a motive.

"The third possible motive is making the island cultivable and healthy, more productive and so on for some future people. Well, I think this seems

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to be more likely because in the resolutions of the Government of India and in the speeches made by the hon. the Home Member of that Government it had been several times suggested that the islands could be improved and that they would constitute an asset to the Empire. From that it would appear that the object is just to see that the islands are made more habitable, more productive and cultivable. But then, the question is whether the Government is justified . . . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has far exceeded his time limit."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—" I am finishing, Sir. The question is whether the Government is justified in making use of convicts for this dangerous speculation, and not only that, of all the people in India they have chosen only the Mappillas for this nefarious business. Then, it may be perhaps due to the fact that the Mappillas cannot make any effective protests. If they think that they cannot make effective protest, they are grossly mistaken. Of course, they are simply creating discontent now which will gradually grow in extent until in the end it will become uncontrollable. Therefore, I hope the Government will reconsider the question and recommend the cancellation of the scheme to the Government of India. With these few words, I second the resolution."

II.- ADJOURNMENT MOTION—DISALLOWANCE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that His Excellency the Governor has disallowed the motion of the hon. Member for the University regarding the adjournment of the business of the House."

The House then adjourned for lunch at 1-43 p.m.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

Discussion on the resolution regarding the Mappilla Andamans Colonization Scheme was then resumed.

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I rise to support this motion. From the report of the Jail Committee presided over by Sir Alexander Cardew we get an idea of the condition of the Andamans. Unhappily it is malarial. jungly and except for the fertility of the tract it is not fit for habitation. With reference to the jail population there, the Committee make some strong observations and those particularly with reference to the morality that prevails in the island. They say that the proportion of men to women there is 6 to 1 and on this basis they say that the morality of the people is very weak there. Subsequent to the publication of the report by the Government of India, accepting the opinions of the Committee they resolved to give up the Andaman island as a penal settlement and they issued a formal Government Order to that effect. It was subsequent to that action that the idea of colonizing the island with the Mappillas was thought of and in consequence of that there was a discussion on this question on the floor of this House. After that discussion and probably in consequence of that discussion and in consequence of a similar discussion that took place in the Legislative Assembly in Delhi the Government of India appointed a deputation consisting of three Muhammadan members and a

Parsi gentleman to visit the island to inspect the different parts of the island and to make a report thereon. The Committee went, saw and examined the things for themselves and duly submitted their report. That report affords very dismal reading. There is a majority report and there is a minority report. The minority report consists of the report of the Parsi gentleman and the report of majority is that of three Muhammadan gentlemen that constituted the Committee. In that report they say, supporting the observations of the Jail Committee, that the island, no doubt, is fertile but barring this quality this island possesses no other good quality. It is highly malarial and the huts and dwellings in which these Mappilla women and children dwell are highly insanitary and what is more the proportion of men to women has changed since the report of the Cardew Committee. That proportion at the time of the visit of this deputation is 10 to 1. For ten men there is only one woman. I do not want to deal on the floor of this House with what the Committee has said with reference to the morality that is prevailing in the island. They say that on account of the great preponderance of men over women—and hon. Members of this House will remember that the male population there are not men of very high character—the morality that is prevailing in the island is something that cannot be thought of by decent men. When, Sir, on the last occasion this question came up here and when I referred to this aspect of the question my hon. Friend, Mr. Moir,—I am sorry he is not here to-day just now—threw on my face the Ramayana and said that I knew or ought to know that Seetha followed Rama to the forests. I know that Seetha followed Rama. I have read Ramayana as a Hindu. My Friend, Mr. Moir, is the follower of another religion. I know that the birth of Seetha and Rama had a divine purpose and the departure of Seetha after Rama was also part of the divine purpose. Mr. Moir will not say that the compulsory sending of these Mappilla women is in pursuance of a divine purpose and he will not say that all the men who go there are as good as Sri Rama. The Government of India have passed a formal resolution on the recommendations and suggestions contained in the Committee's report. The peculiar feature of this resolution is that it does not run on the ordinary lines of Government resolutions. We are accustomed to Government resolutions generally. They are generally formal documents. When they bestow praise or blame they do it generally in a dignified manner but this particular resolution of the Government of India dealing with this report of the Andamans Deputation is of a very peculiar order. It looks as if it was written for the purpose of censuring the members of that deputation. The statements that are contained in their report are taken separately and criticised and that not in a very decent language."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know if the order and the report have been placed before the House? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member for Malabar is not reading from any document. He is referring to the contents of a document. In the case of private members it is absolutely unnecessary that they should even, when they quote from them, get the document placed before the House."

2-45 p.m. * Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Thank you, Sir. I thought my friend was aware of that plain fact. This particular order of the Government it would appear is intended for the purpose of criticizing the observations and statements of the members who have submitted that report. It ays that the Home Member Sir Alexander Muddiman himself visited the

island and from his observations some statements of the Committee are found unsustainable. Special mention is made of the sanitary condition of the Mappilla huts and villages. I am rather surprised that this observation has been made in the resolution of the Government. Does anybody expect that when an officer of his high position in the Government of India visits this penal settlement they will keep the Mappilla huts there in an insanitary condition? In fact the special object of the member was to see how people were living there and how the sanitary conditions were. When the Home Member of the Government of India goes there with the special object of examining these conditions, naturally all the Government officers in the island make it a special point to regard it as their duty to keep all places particularly those places inhabited by Mappilla women in a very sanitary condition.

"Then it is stated in the resolution that the soil there is very fertile, that easy terms are granted to Mappilla settlers there, and that therefore this colonization scheme is a very desirable one. As a matter of fact, it is admitted, it is a well known fact, that the people who enter the island and live there are only convicts in addition of course to the original inhabitants of the island. If it is such a heaven on earth, if it is such a beautiful island for ordinary people to settle, why not make it a free colony, why not remove all those penal conditions, namely, that people can enter the island only with permission, why not remove all those obstructions and restrictions, and make the islands open for anybody to go and settle? That will be the test of the scheme. Why place all these obstacles?

"Again, when recently some Mappilla prisoners were brought from Malabar to Madras on their way to the Andamans, many Mappilla gentlemen, gentlemen of respectability, gentlemen of position and standing, wanted to see these prisoners. My information is that they were not allowed to see them. They were brought in a special train from Malabar with a large number of Mappilla women and children numbering 300 people roughly. My information is—the hon. the Home Member will contradict me if I am wrong, and I shall gladly stand corrected—that after the arrival of these prisoners about 30 in number with about 300 women and children, in Madras, people wanted to see them, respectable Muhammadan gentlemen wanted to see them and have conversation with them, but they were not allowed. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar; Hear, hear). Why all these restrictions?"

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"If you will permit me to answer the statement that has been made now to facilitate discussion, I shall do so."

* The hon. the President:—"The hon. the Home Member will have his chance. If he has no objection, I will call him next to speak."

* Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—"So that I submit, Sir, there is no use of sticking up to this Andaman colonization scheme. Therefore, with great pleasure, I support this resolution."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"Sir, in August 1925, this House discussed a resolution on this subject. After the resolution was passed, the Government of India appointed a Committee consisting of Messrs. Schamnad Sahib, Syed Murtuza Sahib and Abbas Ali Khan and Dr. Mugaseth. Before this deputation left for the Andamans, the hon. the Home Member of the Government of India went there and inspected the whole of the place with a view to formulate a policy on this subject. As has been said. . . ."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAHIB :—" On a point of information. . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member can wait."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" As a result of the inspection of the islands by the hon. Sir Alexander Muddiman, the Government of India published a resolution on the 27th of February 1926 in which they threw open the Andamans to all classes of prisoners found in the Indian jails on a self-supporting basis. And after the report of the deputation was submitted to the Government of India, the Government of India again published another resolution on the 4th of October 1926 in which they made the Mappilla colonization scheme a part of the general scheme. Since the policy of opening the Andamans as a colony for settlement was formulated in the first resolution, the Government of India said that the Mappilla prisoners must also be given a chance to colonize in the Andamans. The Mappilla Andaman colonization scheme has thus become a part of an all-India scheme. There is nothing special about the Mappillas alone in this scheme. The Government of India have expressed in their resolution that prisoners from any jail in India, who would like to go and settle in the Andamans should be given a chance to do so. At the same time, they said that the whole thing was absolutely voluntary. The Mappillas can go there if they want, or may remain in the jails in India if they prefer to do so. Secondly, the Mappilla settlers in the Andamans have been given a chance to come back if they like to the jails in the Presidency of Madras, and thirdly I find that the Mappilla prisoners in the Presidency of Madras have been definitely asked if they would go to the Andamans or not, and if they do not want to go there, certainly they are allowed to remain where they are. Again, another concession that is given in the case of the Mappilla prisoners is that after one year's stay in the Andamans they have got the option to return to the Indian jails sending their wives and children to Malabar. In the resolution that was passed in October last, the Government of India say that the Mappilla prisoners in the Andamans at the present moment may, if they so desire, get their wives and families to the island. Thus my point is that there is no such thing as the Mappilla Andaman colonization scheme. There is only a general scheme by means of which prisoners in any of the Indian jails if they want to go and live as self-supporters and as free citizens in the Andamans, may do so. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar : Who else ?) My hon. Friend asks me if any others have gone there. I shall come to it presently. After the resolution was passed, the Government thought it their duty to ask those who are now in the Andamans whether they would come back to the jails in Southern India, and they have learnt just now that all of them have refused except one. Only one prisoner said that he would like to return to the jail in South India, whereas all the others have preferred to remain in the Andamans. That shows that the Mappilla settlers in the Andamans prefer a life of liberty and freedom to a prison life in India.

" My hon. Friend wanted to know if other than Mappilla prisoners have gone to the Andaman Islands, and I may say that the steamer that conveyed these Mappilla prisoners and their families last time also conveyed 45 non-Mappilla prisoners to the Andamans."

Mr. K. P. V. S. MUHAMMAD MEERA RAVUTTAR :—" With their families ? "

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* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Not with families. They have alone gone. I understand with regard to that question, that the 45 non-Mappilla prisoners who were conveyed in the same steamer consisted of 35 unmarried men, one married man and nine widowers.

" I know when this resolution was discussed last time on the floor of this House, there was a good deal of sentimental objection from my hon. Friend Mr. Uppi Sahib, and my Friend Mr. C. R. Reddi asked this question : ' May I know if the conditions are good enough for the Mappillas or are they generally good ? If they are generally good why should the Mappillas alone be asked to go to these islands ? ' Sir, there was a great deal of sentimental objection that the Government were trying to introduce this scheme as a form of special punishment to the Mappillas. After the references I have made to the two resolutions of the Government of India, the hon. Members of the House will see that that sentimental objection no longer exists for there is no such thing as the Mappilla Andaman Colonization Scheme as the Andaman Islands have been thrown open to all convicts in India who satisfy certain conditions.

" From the official and non-official reports that I have received, I find that these prisoners who are in the jails are very anxious to go to the Andamans. I have no objection to read one of them—if the hon. the President does not object to it—but I do n t wish to read the very words. I have just received a report from one of the non-official visitors to the Alipuram jail in Bellary, Diwan Bahadur G. Narayanaswami Chetti, President of the Corporation of Madras. When he went and inspected the place about three months ago, about thirty prisoners asked him to recommend them to be sent to the Andaman Islands where they could live happily with their wives and families."

* Mr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" The prison officials . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. the Home Member may proceed with his speech."

* Mr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" I just want to ask one thing."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Mr. Mallayya is a new Member of the House. When a Member of the Government is on his feet making his speech, there may be many opportunities to put questions to him. But I must make a distinction between question time and a debate, there is no necessity for the hon. the Home Member to answer all the questions that may arise in the minds of Members as he makes the speech."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " What I wish to emphasize, Sir, is that the scheme is absolutely a voluntary one. Prisoners who have settled down in the Andamans are being given a chance of coming back to India. If they so desire, they can certainly do so. Under these circumstances, Sir, after the Government of India passed those two resolutions, the only reasonable course for the Government is to leave the whole thing in the hands of the prisoners. If they desire to go to the Andamans, certainly they can do so, or if they do not like to go there, they can remain in the jails where they are at present. The Government are trying to make it an absolutely voluntary thing. What we find is that these prisoners themselves prefer to go to the Andamans for they value a life of freedom and liberty more than a life of imprisonment. Therefore, the

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question that this hon. House is called upon now to decide is whether they will give these Mappilla prisoners freedom and liberty, and I am sure that this House with its love of freedom and liberty (laughter) will grant it.

"Certain criticisms have been raised with regard to the scheme. My hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, has said that there is a good deal of malaria in the islands and that sanitary conditions are not existing there. If he only reads the resolution of the Government of India on the subject, he will be convinced. No doubt the islands were once malarial but the Government of India are spending a good deal of money, about Rs. 4½ lakhs, in order to see that malaria is wiped out entirely from the islands. His objection with regard to the moral conditions there has been refuted in the Resolution of the Government of India. It has been clearly pointed out that the disparity of numbers of men and women is not so great. Further, I would like to ask this hon. House whether the risk of these women being exposed to immorality is greater in Malabar or in the Andamans where they will be living with their husbands. I have no doubt whatever that the risk of immorality is far less if they live with their husbands in the Andamans. I have nothing more to say but to emphasize two points, viz., that Government have made the scheme absolutely voluntary and that there can be no sentimental objection raised to it for it is an all-India scheme, and the islands are now thrown open to all the prisoners who are confined in the jails throughout this whole country."

3 p.m. * Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Sir, Mr. President, I am indeed very much surprised at the manner in which the hon. the Home Member thought fit to deal with a subject of such great importance. His speech consists of two parts. The first part reveals a happy irresponsibility throwing the whole thing on the Government of India and stating what the Government of India had done from time to time with regard to the Andaman colonization. If he had continued in the same vein, I would not have had any quarrel with him. For I know, Sir, he has not yet picked sufficient courage to protest against the Government of India's interference with the Madras Mappilla convicts. Without stopping at that, he has taken upon himself the responsibility of defending the action of the Government of India in this matter. I know the hon. the Home Member for the last seven or eight years. He is a very good man, a very harmless man, and every inch a gentleman. I only beg of him to read the official reports, the official documents concerning the Andamans published by the Government of India from time to time. If he does, I have not the least doubt that he will himself be convinced of the injustice that the Government of India is doing to these Mappillas

"Sir, my Friend, the hon. the Home Member, referred to the Government of India's latest Government Order which is couched in the most offensive language against the members of the Deputation appointed by themselves. The resolution of the Government of India speaks about the misleading and inaccurate statements of the members of the Committee which has been appointed by them. But I say, Sir, with all respect to the governments of the day that in the matter of misleading statements and inaccuracy the resolution of the Government of India cannot be surpassed even by the Madras Government. Sir, the Government appointed the Committee, but before that Committee sailed for the Andamans the hon. the Home Member of the Government of India took the opportunity of visiting the Andamans, of

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making an inspection and then passing a resolution If our hon. the Home Member's statement is correct, the resolution was passed irrespective of the findings of the Deputation. The hon. the Home Member has found fault with the hon. Mr. Krishnan Nayar for calling this the Mappilla colonization scheme. We must be thankful to him, Sir. But I will say it is an Andamans colonization scheme open to all convicts. It is not only the Mappillas that are now given the chance to kill themselves, but also the other convicts as well. With regard to the malarial conditions, we have seen a picture of it in the Jail Committee Report of 1920 presided over by Sir Alexander Cardew. Let us follow the reports published by the Government of India from 1920 till the year 1923 which is the latest available, to non-officials at any rate. I find that, whatever might have been done or might not have been done, the incidence of death-rate under malaria has never decreased from the year 1920. But the official reports with their usual aptitude for cleverness and evading the main issue quote figures to show that the deaths have been less than in previous years. There is a fall in the figures, not on account of the fact that the death-rate has decreased but on account of the fact that after 1920 the Government of India closed its penal settlement. There was less population, therefore there were less deaths. If according to recent reports malaria had decreased, the death-rate must naturally decrease. On the other hand, the rate has increased since 1922. The hon. the Home Member said that Mappillas are willing to stay there and prefer that kind of life rather than the life in the Indian jails. I hope he will pardon me if I quote from the official report of 1923-24 of the Government of India: 'Dysentery has been very severe, most intractable throughout the year, admissions have nearly doubled, death nearly five times as many as in 1922.' As regards the causes of this increase, the Senior Medical Officer thinks it is due to the general desire among the convicts to get themselves transferred to the Indian jails at all costs. That is the statement which the Government of India have published in their own report. Can it be said in the face of this statement that the convicts themselves prefer to live in the Andamans? Sometime ago, when the last debate took place in this House, some Member of the Government said that they preferred freedom and liberty in the Andamans to life in Indian jails. I think that is repeated by the hon. the Home Member to-day. But here is the statement of the Government of India. It is that they are willing to develop dysentery so as to get out from the Andamans. In the face of this statement can any Government, can any person, putting the facts together, satisfy his own conscience and say that these convicts are willing to live in the Andamans, or advise the transport of these Mappillas to the Andamans?

"Then, Sir, the hon. the Home Member said that the Mappilla convicts here were willing to live in the Andamans with their wives. Under what circumstances, I ask? I am sure he is only echoing the words of the Home Member of the Government of India, for when he had gone there all the Mappilla convicts presented a petition requesting permission to bring back their wives. Even before that they were given permission to bring back their wives. Where was the necessity for the Mappillas to present petitions to the Home Member to bring back their wives unless it was the intention of the Government of India to make it appear that the Mappilla convicts are anxious to live there and get back their wives? Whereas the members of the Deputation say that every one of the convicts came to them with tears in their eyes, fell on their knees and requested to be taken back to Indian jails.

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The hon. Mr. Schamnad, who spoke before lunch, said that he was not able to go to one of the main villages on account of its inaccessibility. The members of the Deputation say that they could not go there, and is it possible that human beings could live in such a place as that? Then, what do they say in the report? They say that persons who have accompanied the members of the Deputation, their servants perhaps, have had their legs abstracted by leeches while passing through the jungles. The condition is so miserable. Then, with regard to married women, the members of the Committee say that even married women pass hands as token of currency. That is the situation. The hon. the Home Member says probably their morals would be better safeguarded if they be with their husbands rather than live alone in Malabar. That is a statement which I cannot controvert without being very severe. But I do not want to be severe to the hon. the Home Member. I think this is a very serious statement which ought not to have come from his lips. Last time, when the Home Member spoke he said that all sorts of amenities were given, schools were opened, mosques were built and all those things. I am aware that the Government have also provided some grog shops as amenities. But what kind of mosque has been built? The Home Member might have given money to build mosques, but the Moslems refused to go and worship there. That indicates whether they have got any desire to live in the Andamans. If they have a desire to live in the Andamans, if the Home Member is so generous as to construct a mosque there, what prevented the Moslems to go and worship there? They would not go because they knew that these attempts were made by the Government to securely implant them there. They want to get out of it. Is this colonization on voluntary basis? May I quote a passage from the report again of the Government of India which, if carefully read, would reveal what methods the Government of India have had recourse to before they could bring the Mappillas to colonize even as self-supporting convicts. In the report of 1922–23, they say 'A slow increase is noticeable in the percentage of convicts upon whom whipping was inflicted. This was due to the recalcitrant attitude of the Mappillas who have now settled down in Andamans and have taken in larger numbers to Agriculture and are self-supporting.' Now reading between the lines of the passage, it means that the Mappillas were whipped before they agree to colonize themselves. Again, compare this passage with the passage that appeared in the year 1923–24 and you will find that I was not wrong in my conclusions. The percentage of punishment showed a gratifying decrease especially in the matter of whipping, the conduct of the Mappillas has been excellent and now they have apparently abandoned the idea of going out of the Andamans, and they are trying to settle down here and resign themselves to local conditions. If you put these passages together, you will ask, where is the necessity for increase of whipping, whether whipping has not something to do with coercing them to colonize in the Andamans? And in the Government of India resolution they say that rations were granted on a liberal scale out of which they are able to sell some to provide themselves with the necessities of life. With a tragic cruelty they point out that 'if rations were sold the fact itself to sell suggests that they were granted on a liberal scale.' Then again they say, 'it has been found possible to grant money to convicts to make them self-supporting, and although the wages are small the partial freedom has had its own attractions.' They admit that the wages are small and it seems to me that the Madras Government cannot burke its responsibility in this matter. It ought to record

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its emphatic protest against this. It may be the Government of India has thrown up the Andamans for the colonization of convicts and also to other than convicts. For in the year, some Anglo-Indians have gone there for colonization. But what was their fate? They returned reduced in numbers and after they returned they suffered from malaria for a long number of months. This is not my statement, but it is the statement made by Col. Crawford in the Legislative Assembly. If the place is so agreeable why should not the Anglo-Indians stay there. They have gone there on more generous terms than the convicts at any rate The conditions are impossible to be improved upon. It is true that four and a half lakhs of rupees are now going to be spent on the reclamation of these tracts. But the area is all swampy. The Government officers say that if these swamps are reclaimed there will be no malaria. But there are other carriers of malaria than those breeding in swamps. Nothing can be done to put them down.

" Therefore, Sir, I only request the hon. the Home Member to view this question with more seriousness than he has so far bestowed. He ought not to suppose that because the Government of India have so resolved he ought to obey. As a matter of fact, the argument of the Government of India will be that the subject is in charge of a Muslim gentleman and he has no objection to it. 'Why should you, other people, raise objection against the Mappillas living there?' I do not want that the Government of India should use your religion or your community for the support of its own pet scheme. It is desirable that you must emphatically express your opinion. I must say that, if you have any doubt about the unsoundness of this scheme, you have only to read the Government Order on the subject. You will feel convinced that you are doing a very very bad thing perhaps unwittingly. I cannot close my speech without making an appeal to you that if ever the Government of India should, consistent with its policy, continue to be recalcitrant even after the protest of the Madras Government, I beg of you to ask them as to what the terms are that are offered to these Mappilla convicts, what are the privileges offered. Five years after the expiry of their sentence they are going to be given permanent occupancy rights. Sir, most of them are undergoing a sentence of imprisonment for 20 years. Now, they are perhaps aged between 30 and 40. Therefore a convict aged 40 years, after undergoing the 20 years' imprisonment will be sixty years old and five years thereafter he is to be offered permanent occupancy rights there. I do not think life in the Andamans will be very much shorter than the period of their sentences. Under the circumstances is it really an honest endeavour on the part of the Government of India to make the Mappillas permanent occupants of those lands? No. Their intention does not seem to agree with what they have stated. I therefore beg of you to ask the Government of India what are the guarantees they are going to give to these people in case it should unfortunately happen that they are not going to yield to the Madras Government's protest. 3-15 p.m.

" Again, if you merely look at the cess which these people have to pay, you will find that they have to pay irrigation cess, some cess for veterinary charges, etc. In all they have got to pay four kinds of cesses. Every self-supporter is given Rs. 200 as advance which he should return in instalments of Rs. 5-4-0 a month When his own earning per month is not more than that, he naturally defaults payment and the consequence is that he is made

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to work from sunrise to sunset. That is the kind of thing going on there. I therefore request the hon. the Home Member to look into these matters and record an emphatic protest."

Mr. S. N. DORAI RAJA :—" Sir, it is rather difficult for me to reconcile the object of the mover of the resolution with the wording of the resolution. If as he says—we all know they are – they are free men and women, what right have we in this House, who stand for freedom and equal opportunities to all, to stand in their way and put a check upon their freedom of thought and action ? Why should they be ordered to be brought back ? Even now they can very well come back whenever they want. Sir, if it is the object of the hon. Mover to insinuate that life in the Andamans is not so rosy as it is depicted to be, that gentle and moral persuasions in which we were adepts during the elections are being used and that they were induced to go there by false promises, all I can say without fear of contradiction is that none are so blind as those who will not see and that everything appears yellow to a jaundiced eye. If, Sir, on the other hand, the object of the hon. Mover is to tell the Government in plain words that the punishment awarded to them ought to fit in with the crime committed by them and that the freedom and happiness enjoyed by their wives and children should be put a stop to by having the convicts incarcerated in jails here, all I can say is that I appreciate and congratulate the Government for their humanitarian principles. Well, Sir, the point is this: It would be an interesting spectacle to see what they will do if this gratuitous piece of advice is given to them to exchange freedom and plenty for fetters and penury. I am confident that they go down on their knees and pray God to save them from such friends. Well, Sir, to ask any one to be good and give him nothing but the means to be bad is, to say the least, wasting good advice. Therefore, in the name of these Mappilla prisoners who are having a happy time of it out there, I oppose the resolution."

* Mr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Sir, the hon. the Home Member appealed to us, to our patriotism, to support, in the interests of liberty, the colonization of the Andamans with Mappilla prisoners, their wives and children. I should like to know, Sir, whether it is the intention of the Government to punish the wives, children and relatives of those prisoners for their 'misguided deeds under fanatical excitement'. That is the expression used by the Governor-General for the deeds done by them against the State. Well, Sir, in the western countries, worst crimes were committed. The Germans did abominable deeds. They torpedoed unarmed vessels on the high seas, in particular the 'Lusitania' with about 1,000 men, women and children, and they were sunk without giving a chance to the people to escape. An innocent nurse by name Miss Cavel was submitted by the Germans to a mock court martial and shot. That was considered to be the greatest crime against civilization. Sir, the 'Emden' was here and the hon. the Home Member must be aware how many innocent people were killed by her bombardment of an unarmed port. Mr. Lloyd George stated in the House of Commons that he would try the Emperor of Germany and all those who perpetrated these crimes, and brought proposals for submitting them to an International Court for trial. Sir, to-day, the same Germans are treated as your friends. Even if the French want to sit on their necks the English support them saying 'forget and forgive'. Why don't you pursue the same policy in the case of the Mappilla prisoners? What have they done? The little they have done,

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the Governor-General himself has said in the Legislative Assembly, was on account of their fanatical excitement. It is now more than six years since that mad deed was done. Why don't you release the whole lot of them? They are not responsible for their acts. I appeal to you, Sir. Do you not think that for the asphyxiation to death of about 85 men in the train tragedy a civilized Government with all its responsible officers was responsible? Sir don't you think if those officers had to be sent to Andamans we will be justified in demanding it? But we do not. We treat it as an error of judgment on the part of some and decide to leave them alone.

"The hon. Member referred to the Andamans, Sir, as a land ideal for living. I think the hon. the Home Member said that the climate there was comparable to Malabar. Certainly there is rainfall but the soil is not good because it is said that only a low variety of paddy and sugarcane can be grown there. But I will remind the hon. the Home Member that there is no pepper grown there, no jacks and no elephants, but only wild boars and wild cats. That is given in the report itself (laughter). Sir Alexander Cardew said that it was not a place desirable for human habitation. In fact he wanted the whole thing to be given up I had a patient from there—a retired jail officer. About eight years back he came to me with a spleen right down to his navel and complained bitterly of the worst type of malaria prevailing there. The place is malarial. The mosquitoes flourish not only in the marshes on the coast but also inside. Also there are the aboriginal tribes who are always after the blood of these convicts. If they escape from the mosquitoes on the seashore, they have got this tribe inside the island who is always waiting for the blood of these men. They now want only the cloths which these people wear on their bodies. Is that the place which the hon. the Home Member recommends for the wives and children of his co-religionists? Well, we all sympathize with them.

"It is said that mortality is very low there. But I read in a report that 95 out of 1,115 of them died in the first year. Then again, I heard the hon. Home Member say that only one man said that he must be sent back to Malabar. Sir, if I remember right, the reports say that of the 135 individuals who were questioned at the instance of Sir Alexander Muddiman, 37 desired to be taken back to Malabar. That is what the *Gazette of India*, dated 9th October 1926, says. They do not want to remain there any longer.

"The prisoners are given, it is said, rations and that portions of these rations are sold for the necessaries of life. And, about the morals sufficient has been already said. I remember to have read a report—a reliable one—in which it is said that a man when he found that he was not able to sustain himself thought of marriage so that his wife may earn for him. One woman for ten men. It is really abominable that such a state of things should be encouraged by a Civilized Government. And about the women living away from their husbands! I never expected that remark from the hon. the Home Member. It is an insult to women. There may be several widows. There may be several women living away from their husbands. But to make that unkind remark against . . ."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I want to make a personal explanation, Sir."

* Mr. B. S. MALLAYYA (still on his feet) :—" Privilege, Sir "

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Would the hon. Member be pleased to resume his seat ? "

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I never said anything against the Mappilla women. All that I said was that when these women are living with their husbands they are free from any risk of immorality at all."

* Mr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" I am sorry the hon. the Home Member does not still realize the gravity of his remark (Laughter). I am coming from the west coast. I feel for them. May be on deeper consideration he will realize what he said. I do not think it chivalrous to attack poor women especially when their husbands have been sent to black waters- such is the name given to the Andamans by these people—and when they have been rendered destitute by the Government. And, for a responsible Member of that Government to make that remark against these helpless women on the floor of this House !

3-30 p.m. " Again, I heard the hon. the Home Member say that Mr. G. Narayanaswami Chettiyar, that champion of Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, once said that Mappilla prisoners appealed to him to send them to the Andamans. I should like to know what information about the Andamans these prisoners have. If they have any information, that must have been dinned into their ears by the jail authorities. It may be that the jail authorities are making the lives of these prisoners very unbearable so much so they would rather be very glad to expose themselves to the murderous attacks of wild beasts and the slow killing attacks of mosquitoes and insects than submit themselves to the mal-treatment of the jail authorities in jails. After all there is no justification for sending the women to the Andamans. Men have committed the crime and by all means let them be sent. But I submit that to make their women and children and their relations suffer for the crimes of men is not a wise policy to be followed by the Government."

* Mrs. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" From the report of the Jail Committee of 1919–20 and the Andamans Deputation Report, I learn that the conditions prevailing in that island are not favourable for the convicts to lead a healthy and normal life. We all know as man progresses in his spiritual, mental and moral plane he is supposed to develop more and more of the divine qualities such as love and kindness to fellow-beings and a spirit of service, etc., till he attains the level of perfection which we ascribe to Godhood. But the atmosphere in the Andamans is very much opposed to a healthy and normal growth. I say the conditions are such that men and women who are made to live there become more and more of the brute thereby defeating the very object of our existence and also the object of the Government, because the intention of the Government in inflicting such a punishment is to reform them and restore them to the civilized community as better men and women. But the convicts in the absence of healthy moral facilities seem to be sinking deeper and deeper into vices and crimes, and I fear at the rate at which they are going on there—from what I gather from the reports available—one cannot say to what depth of human degradation they would descend. Another sad and most painful feature of colonization which is revolting to our sense of justice and morality and which is done against all human feelings is that these innocent and faultless Mappilla women and children are made to breath the foul atmosphere of the Andamans and become polluted in body and mind beyond any hope of redemption. Hon. Members of this House can very well imagine the hardships and the feelings of such innocent and helpless women

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when they have to face the ordeal of an uncivilized society lost to all sense of moral refinement and culture possessing antisocial tendencies and especially when the proportion of males to females is 10 to 1. More than that I think it is a sin and unwise policy to allow the increase of such a population under such conditions unless our object be to breed out a kind of human being just possessing the reverse qualities of a civilized race. Therefore I feel it is the sacred duty of the Government as guardians of the people, and also of every right minded individual to use their power and influence to bring back those free and innocent women and children to their old homes and thus redeem them from that very serious situation.

"In this connexion I should like to bring to the notice of the House the recent declaration at Geneva on the rights of children passed at the International Congress on Child Welfare, which runs as follows:

> 'Men and women of all nations recognizing that mankind owes to the child all that it has to give declare and accept it as their duty that beyond and above all considerations of race or nationality the child must be given the means and the requisites for its normal development both material and spiritual, must be in a position first to receive relief in times of distress, must be protected against any form of exploitation. It must be brought to the consciousness that its toils must be devoted to the service of its fellow-men.'

"The conditions obtaining in the Andamans are far from satisfying the above declared rights.

"In the face of such a feeling prevailing among the civilized nations of the earth, it will not be fair or just for anybody to tolerate the kind of training which is inimical to the healthy growth of the body and the mind and which the children of the political prisoners like the Mappillas and also those of the other convicts are able to command in the Andamans."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Mr. President, Sir, if I rise to take part in this debate this afternoon, it is not because I have my own doubts about the result of this resolution. I know the resolution will be practically unanimously carried. I know also that the hon. the Home Member will go with his conscience untouched, with his mentality unchanged, imagining that all the wisdom in the world is concentrated in himself and his Colleagues in the Government of Madras, that we are sitting here as school children who do not know what is good for themselves or for those Mappilla convicts, and that we have come here only for finding fault with his great and good intentions, instead of congratulating him on the good feeling which he possesses towards those unfortunate prisoners. I rise to remind everyone of my hon. Colleagues on every side of the House that in spite of the pretensions to the contrary that those reforms are quite good and that they have brought in their train a new heaven and earth, that Government are not irresponsible, that they are amenable to public opinion, and that they are anxiously awaiting the co-operation of the people,—in spite of all these—I would ask every one in this House to note the real fact of the matter whether or not every section of non-officials here except my hon. Friend from Pudukkottah is unanimous on this matter. We all feel that this is a system which must be put an end to. It does not touch the vested interests; it does not touch the Imperial connexion; it will not bring this Government into conflict with any foreign powers; it simply deals with a question which, if accepted will not touch any powers, and yet what do the Madras Government say? The Madras Government say 'you have no right to insist that because I am a Mussalman Member of the Government of Madras, as such I should look on this question with a peculiar sympathy from the Mussalman point of view.' Seated as he is—

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I mean no personal offence, I trust he will pardon me—considering the age of the hon. the Home Member, I am sure he would not have got that position but for the fact he is a Mussalman and why is he there? Is he there simply to carry out his duties as a mere bureaucratic machine; and if he is not able to carry out his own policies, what does it matter to us as to who occupied that bench? Every community and every section demands that this scheme of colonization of the Andamans should be put an end to, and the Government say that they are anxious for the opinion of the public. Now I would submit that, seated as he is as a Mussalman Councillor, if he is not able to answer a Mussalman demand in Muslim accents and if he feels that he has no freedom in the matter, let him go out of his place and any member in his place who may have humane considerations for the Mussalmans will be able to respond to the demands of the country.

"Coming to the arguments of my hon. Friend the Home Member, his first argument was that this matter concerned the Government of India: 'they have passed a resolution; I have only to carry out their orders.' I respectfully dissent from that view. Under the Government of India Act 'Prisons and Prisoners' is a Provincial subject. I want to know from my hon. Friend whether he is compelled to carry out the scheme of the Andamans Colonization so far as the Mappilla prisoners are concerned. Can he or can he not tell the Government of India 'whatever you may do with regard to other convicts in other jails so far as Mappilla convicts in Madras jails are concerned, I am not going to carry out your orders?' I should be very much surprised if the legal advisers of the Government of Madras were to answer that their hands are tied in this matter. No, Sir, their hands are not tied. The Government of India order is merely a smoke-screen which the hon. the Home Member wants to place before himself and frighten others also, thinking that they will be impressed by the phrase 'this is the Government of India's order and we cannot violate it.'

"My hon. Friend then said 'this is wholly a voluntary scheme'. I thought we had all begun to realise that after the famous rise of men from status to contract, men who are not on absolutely equal terms with the rest of the community, have been made degenerate. To a man who is in the position of a Mappilla convict the freedom offered by the hon. the Home Member has added insult to injury. There he is rotting in the Indian jail You go to him and tell him 'there is no alternative treatment here for your life; if you like you may go to the Andamans; I will give you a plot of land and Rs. 200; if you want you can go there and live there happily.' I ask, is there any single man who will work under these conditions in jails here? Almost any man will prefer to live, whatever may be his circumstances, with his family in that country. Family lives in our country are so sacred that even if we are asked to go to a desert we would rather prefer to go and live there along with our families than be in better places without our family ties. Therefore the Government are using a most unjust and unfair argument when they say that they are protecting these unfortunate human beings by sending them to the Andamans.

"I say that the objection to this system of colonization is not so much directly to the transference of these prisoners to the Andamans, as to the practical confinement of their wives and children in this country for no sins of theirs. I have heard that a son has to suffer for the sin of his father, but I thought that this had been confined to Biblical language alone The

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Deputation which visited the Andamans recently gives a correct picture of the Andamans and the Government publish their report which treats about the cruelty of life in the Andamans. But when we say all these things, we are told by enthusiastic friends 'Andamans are not what our officials say; they are very much better places; their climate has rapidly improved'. This is the first time when I heard that time has changed the geographical, the physical and the climatic conditions of a certain place. The Indian Jail Committee which visited the Andamans five or six years ago has given its opinion that the Islands are unfit for habitation. Are we to understand that the physical features of the Islands, their climatic conditions, etc., have been transformed since then?

"It seems to me, Mr. President, that we cannot be put off by these answers when facts stare us in the face. Therefore it is not a voluntary scheme at all. It is not a case of the life there being suitable for these men; because after all we cannot make Andamans a better colony. If it can be, why did the Anglo-Indians give it up? May I invite my hon. Friend's attention to a historical and geographical analogy? The Andamans have always been very near of reach to India. Indians have not always been unenterprising colonists. Time was when our ancestors went forth north, east and west and south and colonized the world. But how did it happen that the Andamans were never colonized? Because they were unfit for colonization and it remained a swampy desert unfit for human habitation and occupied only by wild beasts and wilder men all these centuries. We are told that these Andamans are fit for these men and that we are urging sentimental objections against the scheme. Assuming that we are sentimental, is my hon. Friend prepared to say that sentiment plays no part in human affairs? Life would not be worth living but for sentiment. The most beautiful part of life and the most permanent part of life is that based on sentiment. I appeal to his sentiment and ask him not to be a party to this transfer of women and children innocent of any crime to the Andamans. A question may be asked, 'what is the alternative then?' May I give him one? The Mappilla rebellion has come and gone. Justice is great; but mercy is greater still. If I were the Government of Madras, I would certainly do this. Except those persons who have been convicted for actual participation in violent crime against person or property, why should you not release the rest and order a general amnesty? Are you going to pursue a policy of vindictiveness against these persons for all time? How are you going to restore once more in Malabar the happy and harmonious relations that ought to exist between the two communities, unless you make a gesture of that kind? History has shown that generosity of that kind has never been misplaced Why not my hon. Friend, the Home Member, adopt a courageous attitude and take the initiative in this matter? In any case, if he cannot, let him at least no longer be a party to the scheme of sending innocent women and children to the unhealthy and immoral surroundings in the Andamans. A great deal has been said about the immoral surroundings in the Andamans; I do not want to paint the picture darker. It is a matter which any Government which calls itself civilized must look into most carefully and anxiously. What right have we to place women under conditions which expose them at least to the scandal of being said that they are liable to immorality? I do not think that we ought to be a party to that. Although I do not want to put the hon. the Home Member on his defence at once, may I join in the complaint against his statement that the Mappilla women in Malabar are

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more likely to be exposed to the risk of immorality if they are in Malabar away from their husbands, than if they are in the Andamans with their husbands? May I suggest that these women in their homes, in their own country, are subject to healthy family influences and public opinion which after all are greater guarantees of public morality than anything man has devised? I suggest therefore that the prevalence of immoral conditions in the islands ought to be the conclusive consideration in this matter. The hon. the Home Member in the earlier part of his speech pinned his faith to the report of the officials who have said that the conditions there were satisfactory. He then said that if the officials were proved to have given wrong reports they would be punished and that he would not accept their reports. He then sent a committee consisting of men who did not oppose the Government all the time, honourable men, moderate men, and favourites of the Government. The Committee consisted of Messrs. Schamnad, Abbas Ali and Syed Murthuza Sahib. These gentlemen went there and saw the condition of things on the spot and penned a report to the effect that the condition there is unhealthy and immoral and unfit for habitation and that the people there were willing to come back to India. What does the Government of India do with this report? They put aside all these statements and tell my hon. Friends Messrs. Schamnad, Abbas Ali and Syed Murthuza Sahib that they have indulged in reckless statements with which the report abounds and that they have not shown due regard to ascertain the facts of the case. This is euphemism for a word which I do not want to use. The hon. the Home Member may now implement his promise made early, and find out for himself whether these three Mussalman hon. Gentlemen indulged in terminological inexactitudes and whether one solitary member alone has given the whole truth.

"One word more and I have done. The hon. Member, Mr. Dorai Raja, referred to the fact that these men were given freedom and therefore we ought not to stand in the way of the Government transporting them to the Andamans. He therefore thought it best to oppose the resolution. I may say, that a great brother of his, a member of the Jails Committee, whose death I regret as much as anybody else wrote a dissenting minute to the report of the Indian Jails Committee saying that the colony ought to be abolished. He says:

'In view of what one of the witnesses who has been a medical officer in that place has definitely deposed, viz., that whatever improvements may be effected the health of the prisoners in the Andamans will never be so good as it is in the Indian jails (which view is generally shared by a few other medical officers who had also been in charge of the islands) and in view of the fact that there is very little chance of obtaining in the Andamans such educated healthy public opinion as would afford a wholesome check on the prison administration, I am unable to agree with my colleagues as regards their recommendation with regard to the deportation of the specially dangerous prisoners.' (Page 311, Indian Jails Committee.)

"The majority report recommended the Andamans to be reserved for specially dangerous prisoners; but my Friend, the brother of my hon. Friend Mr. Dorai Raja, wanted that it should be completely abandoned. I recommend to my hon. Friend to read the report with profit and pleasure. I am sure that when he has read that report he would come back and join the chorus of opinion in this House that the Andamans should be abandoned. Sir, my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, appealed to the hon. the Home Member; but I do not propose to do so because I know that the appeal would be in vain. But I appeal to the Mappillas of Malabar this time and tell them that they should no longer be a party to sending these

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women and children to the Andamans, and that in any steps which they might take to put an end to this scheme they can count on the enthusiastic and whole-hearted support of this side of the House. With these words, I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—" Sir, I do not see any reason why the Government should proceed with this cruel scheme, which would amount to exterminating the brave race of Mappillas indirectly. It is of course a heinous crime on the part of the Mappillas to have rebelled against the Government. They did so on account of misguided enthusiasm or religious fanaticism or false patriotism. Whatever it might be, it is after all a political crime. If a rebel General like Botha can become Prime Minister of a big colony, I do not see why these rebels should always be confined to perpetual imprisonment When we get swaraj we shall surely release them ; I regret that in the meanwhile their families also are sent away to the Andamans, which have been condemned to be unhealthy by all non-official visitors whatever may be the opinion of the official visitors who always support the Government's policy however wrong and unpopular it might be. These people are allowed to die of malaria and typhoid The defence of the hon. the Home Member is unconvincing to all of us except perhaps one ot two. He said that they were given freedom. These people are in the most distressed condition They are confined in jails for years together. Many of them have not got the hope of surviving their jail-life and return from the Andamans to see their wives and children. Under the circumstances when the choice is given to them they would rather like to go to the Andamans with their wives and children than rot in the jails of Bellary or Trichinopoly even though they would be exposed in the Andamans to the risk of malaria and typhoid. The women of India are particularly fond of living with their husbands. This is the land of Damayanti. The women would rather live in forests with their husbands rather than live in luxury away from their husbands. It is therefore no wonder that the Mappilla women are ready to follow their husbands to the Andamans and expose themselves to the risk of malaria and typhoid. But that is not the proper thing to be encouraged by the Government. There is no freedom at all in this matter; it is something like extracting a confession statement. The hon. the Home Member referred to the improvement in the morals of the Mappilla women if they were allowed to go and live with their husbands in the Andamans. But that is not a correct statement at all. Indian women live a spiritual life when their husbands are in distress; they do not indulge in luxuries, they do not take such articles of food as ghee, etc., and they generally renounce all comforts. Therefore to say that they will have no risk to their morality when they are with their husbands is out of the question. The only thing therefore that remains for us to consider is whether the Government will carry out the resolution if passed by this House. I commend the resolution for the whole-hearted acceptance of the House."

* Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I move, Sir, that the question be put." 4 p.m.

* The hon. the President :—" Does any hon. Member on the Treasury Bench wish to speak on the motion ? "

(The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir rose.)

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Discretion vests in the President of applying closure. Since one of the hon. Members of the Treasury Bench wants to speak, I do not put the question to the House now."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" Sir, I do not wish to detain the House long on this occasion because to-day we have been traversing familiar ground and listening to arguments and counter-arguments with which we are already conversant But perhaps I might say that I think it is a pity that in dealing with the pronouncements of the Government of India on this subject in more than one instance, only partial and one sided references to what has actually been stated have been made. I propose to call attention only to one or two instances. For example, one hon. Member declaimed about these unfortunate men being kept in the Andamans for ever, or until they rot or some such phrase. I have, for my information, only those documents which have been published in the Government of India Gazette. I find an answer to that oratorical question in one of these pronouncements: 'No less misleading is the statement that the Mappilla prisoners in the Andamans are denied what is granted to prisoners in Indian jails. Under existing rules about 60 per cent of the Mappillas can be freemen in seven years and most of the remainder in fourteen years.'

" I do not propose to go into the vexed question as to why these men are confined. The House is equally familiar with that question. Two hon. Members suggested all that was necessary was to declare complete amnesty and to allow all Mappilla prisoners to return to Malabar. I think I might simply refer them to the hon. Member, Diwan Bahadur Krishnan Nayar, for an answer to that suggestion.

" Then various statements were made as to the oppressive taxation to which Mappilla colonists in those islands are submitted. I find in the same pronouncement that collection is remitted when it is likely to cause hardship and that actually up to date no Mappilla had paid one pie.

" We have heard it stated that a large number of the inhabitants of these islands are ferocious and dangerous aboriginal tribes. I find no evidence that they constitute a danger in any way greater than that found in many of our own civilized districts from the existence of criminal tribes who can hardly be regarded as more amenable to law and order.

" Another statement which seemed to me exceedingly partial was a reference to the produce available in these islands. The statement was repeated that only an inferior kind of paddy and inferior sugarcane could be had there. I find on casually looking through the same pronouncement that coconut palms, tea and rubber grow and flourish in these islands. I know nothing about the Andamans but I do know that in the Madras Presidency the areas in which these products flourish are the most fertile and the most beautiful. The hon. Member for the University asked 'why it is that these islands have not been colonized when it is within easy access from the shores of Burma and India.' I do not think that argument ought to be pressed too far. The traditions of the south of India are to the effect that it was once a wild jungle and a waste tract fit for nothing but wild beasts and venomous serpents to inhabit. Is there any reason to suppose that these islands, which geographically, climatically and otherwise are essentially similar to India and Burma, should be incapable of being reduced to fitness for human occupation? It seemed to me too that some hon. speakers on this motion entirely

ignored the statement of the Government of India as to what is being done to improve the conditions in these islands. Similar areas have been converted into fertile tracts and have been made available for human occupation elsewhere. Why should they not in the Andamans? I think it was the hon. Member for the University who drew attention to the attempt that had been made to plant a colony of Anglo-Indians in these islands. I think he forgets and I am right in saying that it was a private enterprise. They did not have the resources of the Government of India behind them."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" They had the advantage of every benefit given to such colonists."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" My statement is, I think, quite accurate. I said that it was a private enterprise by a community which if I may say so had little knowledge of, and hitherto had displayed little interest in agriculture as a pursuit, and I think that that instance is not comparable with the scheme of the Government of India for Mappillas and other convicts of a particular class who may desire to take advantage of the opportunities given.

" Some hon. Members expressed themselves surprised or indignant at some of the remarks which fell from my hon. Colleague the Home Member on the question of morality. Will any one in this House deny that the dissolution of family life, the separation of husband and wife is a potent source and cause of immorality? I have never heard the proposition denied in respect of any country in the world; and my hon. Colleague did no more and no less than to assert that general and universally admitted proposition. I think I can claim to view this question with reasonable sympathy and compassion and not merely as a question of punishment, and to my mind I have seldom heard a more callous and inconsistent speech on this subject than that which fell from the lips of the hon. Member for the University.

" What are the terms of this resolution? It says 'this Council recommends to the Government to take immediate steps to get the Mappilla Andamans Colonization scheme cancelled, to bring back all free men, women and children taken to the Andamans in pursuance of the scheme and to bring back all Malabar rebellion prisoners to Indian jails.' Is it a light thing, Sir, to return a man to jail who has been released from it? When a man has been out of jail, has been re-associated with his family and permitted to enjoy the company of his wife and children, is it a light thing to break up those ties again and to ask the unfortunate man to return to an Indian jail? The conditions in our Indian jails in this Presidency, if you look merely from the point of view of sanitation, food and such other questions, are, I admit, greatly superior to those existing in many of our villages and certainly in many of the Mappilla houses in Malabar. But that is not the sole point in issue. Are these men less sensitive than ourselves or will it be less to them to be separated again from their wives and children, to be deprived of their society, and of the chance to look after their welfare and attempt to provide for their future? This resolution asks us to cancel a scheme under which these men may, if they like or see fit, either return to jail after sending back their women and children to Malabar or remain in the Andamans with their families. What is the alternative offer? It is proposed by this resolution to take away from these men the option which at present exists either to stay with their families or go back to jail, and to

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say to them we, in our sympathy, deny you that option and leave you no course except to return to that life in jail from which the scheme was designed to offer you release."

4-15 p.m. * Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" Mr. President, I wish to speak on the point which the hon. the Finance Member was pleased to refer to. He very pertinently asked: 'Is it a light thing to ask a released prisoner to go back to the jail?' I say that if he had known the circumstances previously, he would not have asked us such a question. I never of course thought it was a light thing; but the Government have themselves shown that it is a light thing; for, is there any law governing the people in the Andamans? It is jail law and nothing but that which is prevailing in jails. All these free men, when they are once taken there practically as prisoners, the only difference between the convict in jail and these people is that the area around the latter is much larger. But the law governing them there is worse than the law governing a life-long prisoner kept in jail in India.

" As to the other point which the hon. the Home Member raised, i.e., that it is all done on a voluntary basis, we know what all things are being done in Malabar. The other day, about a month ago, 31 prisoners were brought to Malabar, and they were taken into the interior, of Malabar. One of the prisoners asked a gentleman whether he would persuade his (prisoner's) wife to accompany him to the Andamans; but that gentleman replied 'I am against the scheme.' The matter somehow reached the ears of the omnipotent, the Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Narayana Menon, who threatened him with serious consequences. We know that this rebel area is completely emasculated. The police can do anything and everything they like, and it is this sort of threatening by the police that had great effect in persuading the Mappilla women and children to consent to the scheme; because in those areas, nobody dare open his mouth against the scheme. Sir, as soon as the people got into the train, i.e., the 300 and odd civil people who had enjoyed their freedom in Malabar, they became mere prisoners (Hear, hear) and when they were brought here to Madras, instead of taking them to the Central Station, they were directly taken to the Rayapuram Railway Station. There, the station premises were fully guarded by the police and nobody was allowed to go into the station or have any conversation with these poor people. True, they were not prisoners, but they were innocent, free brethren. They never committed any crime, but all the same they were guarded and nobody could see them, not even a Mappilla. They were immediately taken to the harbour where nobody was allowed to have any conversation or anything to do with them. I also understand that they had to starve for a day before they got anything by way of food. Here, even in India, they were practically prisoners. If as soon as they got into the train they were prisoners, what would be their position in the Andamans? I want only to say that the hon. the Finance Member did not know the facts. I ask him 'what is the law governing there? Is there any civil court there, or is there any criminal court.' There is no law governing these people there. They are at the mercy of the commissioners and of the other authorities there. May I tell you, Sir, the news that is leaking out from these Mappilla prisoners who come here and through some letters which somehow or other reach us? Last year a batch was taken to the Andamans, and a man from the Andamans writes to his relations in Malabar that though he took his wife

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with him he never saw her since his arrival in the island, and that he learnt that his wife is in confinement in some place. That is the report that he sends, and this is the position, Sir, in which we are going to place innocent women."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" May I say, Sir, in reply, that if the hon. Member will give details and names of these people, enquiries will be made into that allegation ? "

* Mr. K. Uppi Sahib :—" What will be the consequence, if I give out the name, Sir ? It will mean more trouble to the man. There is the record with me, but I do not want to put the man to further trouble. These are the words, Sir, that I wanted to say in the matter, and I heartily support the resolution. I hope also that the House will give its unanimous support to the resolution."

Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar :—" I move, Sir, that the question be now put."

Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar :—" I second it, Sir."

The motion for closure was put to the House and carried.

The resolution was then put to the House and declared carried.

Mr. S. Satyamurti demanded a poll.

* The hon. the President :—" I do not propose to take the poll when the same voice that said 'Aye' to the resolution demands a poll."

* Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" On a point of order, Sir, unless you have finally ruled on the matter, in which case there is an end of the matter. If you will allow me, I may say that under our Rules and Standing Orders—I know what you say is quite in accordance with the usual practice but—it is the right of every Member whether he votes for a resolution or against a resolution to demand a poll and such a practice has been consistently observed during the last three years of my life here ; for example, when the hon. the Law Member defeated me with a minority of three in respect of the grant for the Governor's household, the result was quite obvious and I protested, but yet Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar who was then the President said that under our rules, it was the right of any Member to ask for a poll. I therefore request you, Sir, to look into the Standing Orders before you give a final ruling. I am agreeable to the suggestion that we may put our heads together hereafter and get the Standing Orders amended ; but as they are at present, I think it is the statutory right of every Member of this House, whichever way he votes, to demand a poll, and I do not think you have any right to refuse such a request."

*Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" Moreover, Sir, if the hon. the President wants to make a departure from the usual practice, it may perhaps be convenient to stick to that practice now and make other arrangements later on in case a poll is demanded as on the present occasion ; but now as we are taken unawares, I hope you will kindly follow the usual procedure."

*The hon. the President :—" I think it will be to the convenience of the House if no poll is taken when such a demand is made ; but the wish of the House is that we should have the poll taken until the Standing Orders are amended and I have no objection to take the poll."

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A poll was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

1. Mr. C. D. Appavu Chettiyar.
2. The Zamindar of Seithur.
3. Mr. A. B. Shetty.
4. Rai Sahib M. Hampayya.
5. Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar.
6. ,, J. Bheemayya.
7. ,, T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
8. ,, Chavadi K. Subramanya Pillai.
9. ,, S. V. Vanavudaiya Goundar.
10. ,, K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
11. Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur.
12. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
13. ,, S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
14. K. Abdul Hye Sahib Bahadur.
15. Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
16. ,, S. Satyamurti.
17. ,, C. V. Venkatramana Ayyangar.
18. ,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
19. ,, P. Anjaneyulu.
20. ,, K. Koti Reddi.
21. ,, S. Muttayya Mudaliyar.
22. ,, P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
23. ,, J. A. Saldanha.
24. ,, C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
25. ,, G. Harisarvottama Rao.
26. ,, C. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
27. Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur.
28. Mr. K. V. R. Swami.
29. ,, K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar
30. ,, D. Narayana Raju.
31. ,, M. Narayana Rao.
32. ,, B. S. Mallayya.
33. ,, K. Uppi Sahib.
34. ,, P. Siva Rao.
35. ,, C. Obi Reddi.
36. Mr. A. Parasurama Rao Pantulu.
37. ,, C. Ramasomayajulu.
38. ,, Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib.
39. ,, P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu.
40. ,, A. Kaleswara Rao.
41. ,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
42. ,, Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib Syed Ibrahim Sahib.
43. ,, L. K Tulasiram.
44. ,, K. R. Karant.
45. ,, K. V. Krishnaswami Nayakar.
46. ,, K. Madhavan Nayar.
47. ,, C. Venkatarangam Nayudu.
48. ,, B. Venkataratnam.
49. ,, M. A. Manickavelu Nayakar.
50. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro.
51. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
52. Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razaack Sahib Bahadur.
53. Mr. P. T. Rajan.
54. Munshi Abdul Wahab Sahib Bahadur.
55. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar.
56. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
57. Mr. T. M. Moidu Sahib.
58. Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.
59. Mr. K. Ramachandra Padayachi.
60. ,, K. Sarabha Reddi.
61. Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddi.
62. The Zemindar of Mirzapuram.
63. Mr. J. Kuppuswami.
64. Muhammad Khadir Mohidin Sahib Bahadur.
65. Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabapati Mudaliyar.
66. Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi.

Noes.

1. The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.
2. ,, Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks.
3. ,, Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
4. ,, Mr. T. E. Moir.
5. ,, Dr. P. Subbarayan.
6. ,, Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
7. ,, Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
8. Mr. J. F. Hall.
9. ,, H. H. F. M. Tyler.
10. ,, H. Tireman.
11. ,, G. T. Boag.
12. ,, V. Pandrang Row.
13. ,, S. H. Slater.
14. ,, C. B. Cotterell.
15. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
16. Mr. V. Ch. John.
17. ,, Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara.
18. ,, R. Nagan Gowda.
19. ,, Ramanath Goenka.
20. ,, N. Siva Raj.
21. ,, M. V. Gangadhara Siva.
22. ,, S. Subrahmanya Moopanar.
23. Rao Sahib P. V. S. Sundaramurti.
24. Mr. K. Krishnan.
25. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
26. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
27. ,, G. Premayya.
28. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.

The resolution was carried, 66 voting *for* and 28 *against* it.

4-30 p.m.

REVISION OF THE PAY OF VILLAGE OFFICERS.

*Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move the following resolution which stands against my name :—

'*That this Council recommends to the Government that the pay of village officers under Government be raised to Rs. 15 per mensem.*'

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"As I understand, Sir, there are amendments to be proposed, I would reserve my remarks until the amendments are moved, with your permission."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member has to finish his speech. He will be given a chance of replying only at the end if no closure motion is brought forward."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Very well, Sir, I am satisfied. I beg to move the resolution which I have just read out, formally."

Mr. B. S. Mallayya seconded the motion.

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGAM MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, with your leave, I beg to move the amendment that stands in my name and it runs thus :—

> '*After the words "under Government" insert the words "as well as in the proprietary estates."*'

"I do not make any speech at this stage, Sir. I just formally move my amendment."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju seconded the amendment.

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"I am willing to accept the amendment, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I take it that the House is ready for the question being put regarding this amendment."

The House signified its assent.

The amendment was put to the House and adopted.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Now, the resolution as amended by the amendment of Mr. C. N. Muthurangam Mudaliyar is for the discussion of the House."

* Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"May I know, Sir, if the second amendment standing in the name of Mr. Muthurangam Mudaliyar is not going to be put? I wish to know the procedure that is being adopted."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The amendments are to be put one after the other. The first amendment has now been put. If the House considers that the next amendment that is to be taken up is the second amendment of Mr. C. N. Muthurangam Mudaliyar, I shall ask him to move it."

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGAM MUDALIYAR :—"I now move, Sir—

> '*That after the words "per mensem" the words "and that the pay of the village menials (vettis, talaiyaris) in the ryotwari and proprietary villages be raised to Rs.* 10 *per mensem" be added.*'

Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar seconded the amendment.

The amendment was put to the House and adopted.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Now the resolution as amended by the amendments of Mr. Muthurangam Mudaliyar is before the House."

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* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I have already given notice of an amendment. It may be treated as an amendment to the amended proposition. I beg to move the following amendment :

' *Add at the end of the resolution as amended, the words "from* 1st *April* 1927 *and provision be made for the same in the ensuing budget* ".'

Mr. S. Satyamurti seconded the amendment.

The amendment was put to the House and adopted.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Now, the resolution as further amended is before the House."

* Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I am glad, Sir, that this resolution with all the amendments is being hastened with lightning speed, and it is now for discussion before us when we have barely 20 minutes, so far as this sitting of the Council is concerned. Well, Sir, there have been changes and we have got in name an Opposition, and if the Government of the day in consultation with the Opposition are prepared to pass this resolution, I shall certainly be one of those who shall thank them for it. Sir, during the time when we were in office, resolutions were tabled to raise the pay of the village officers, not to the humble figure of Rs. 15 as is now proposed to be done, but to Rs. 30, and to-day, Sir, we are witnesssing the spectacle of a majority of members of the Standing Finance Committee being composed of Swarajists. And I hope that when the budget comes up for consideration and when the details of the budget are laid before them they would carry out their pledge to their electors, specially in the Finance Committee, and present to this House on the 2nd March next a budget which shows a provision not merely for Rs. 15 for the village officers but also a pay of Rs. 10 for the talaiyaris and vettis, and also provision for retrospective effect from 1st March. I am very glad, Sir, that the country will know that it is not merely lip-deep service that they are doing to these village officers and if this resolution . . ."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir, my resolution mentions not the 1st March but the 1st April."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSALU NAYUDU :—" On a point of order, Sir, I heard my hon. Friend talk of retrospective effect from 1st March 1927. But we are in January 1927, and how can there be retrospective effect from the future ?"

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I asked for provision from 1st April 1927."

* Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" At any rate, Sir, I am glad that there is moderation, prudence and wisdom in that suggestion. I may say, Sir, that it is all the better because they will not, at any rate, go to the extent of seeking to give retrospective effect to their resolution. This question was discussed threadbare in this House, in the first Council, and we passed a resolution that the pay should be raised to Rs. 15 in the case of

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village headmen and Rs. 8 in the case of village menials, the talaiyaris and vettis. Then, a number of Members on this side of the House brought to the notice of the Government by way of suggestion, in order to meet the additional expenditure that would be involved therein, that retrenchment should be effected in the number of village officers, with the result that while that resolution as passed by the Council was accepted by the Government, they truly and to the letter carried out the suggestions made by the Members on this side of the House (A Voice :—On both sides) by reducing the number of village officers. After that what happened? In the second Council there was a cry raised that these village officers who were sent out should be reinstated, and unanimously a resolution was passed by this House but that could not be given effect to because the necessary amount could not be found. Then ultimately according to an agreement among Members on both sides of the House a resolution was brought forward, and it was agreed that subject to a small reduction in the pay of the village officers all people must be restored. A Bill was introduced to give effect to that resolution, and the Bill was passed and became an Act, the Village Officers Restoration Act. In pursuance of that Act these village officers are being restored. Why, Sir, even to-day or yesterday, a question was asked as to why in a particular village, Nagavedu I think, in the North Arcot district which my hon. Friend Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar represents, instead of four menials who ought to have been restored only two were restored by the authorities. Sir, may I ask those Swarajists who are members of the Finance Committee whether they will find the money to pay the enhanced salaries to all village officers or whether they will satisfy themselves by merely passing a resolution like this? (A Voice :—They must.) I am glad my hon. Friend here says that they must find the money. We will wait here anyhow, especially those of us who were in the second Council, and see. I want to know, Sir, what the scope of this resolution will be if the pay of village officers is to be fixed at Rs. 15 and that of menials at Rs. 10, how much it would cost in addition to the former expenditure, and how the necessary money is to be found. My Friends on the Opposition say 'We are not here to find the money' (A Voice 'No'). I am glad that my friends here are prepared like the Ministers to take the responsibility (Voices :—No, no). If not, Sir, I do not know how this resolution is going to be given effect to (A Voice :—Wait and see). Whatever that may be, Sir, we should not in our enthusiasm for village officers or in our anxiety to fulfil the pledges we gave at the elections, raise their salaries and then owing to want of money reduce their number. That means we would again be going back to the same state of things that happened before. So, I would say earnestly, please do not reduce the number of village officers by raising their pay. I wish that every one of those that moved the resolution and amendments would clearly sound a note of warning that if this resolution is to be given effect to, it should not be by a reduction in the number of officers, or at the risk of reduction in their numbers. If power is to be given to the hon. the Revenue Member to reduce the number of officers on administrative grounds or otherwise, and if this resolution though passed unanimously cannot be given effect to except by a reduction in the number of village officers, then it will not at all give satisfaction to anybody. I for one am for passing this resolution now because, sitting on this side of the House, I am not also bound to find the money for giving effect to the resolution. But let it not be said on any ground that the Government should be given power to have the number

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reduced. I only say that if this resolution is passed, it should be on the understanding that all the people, the present village officers, should be continued."

4-45 p.m. * The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Sir, I do not know what I have to say at this juncture. It has been proposed that the pay of the village officers should be increased but no Member has suggested the source from which it is to be met. No one has given any idea as to what it will cost and I presume hon. Members are indifferent as to that aspect of the matter."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" We know all that."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" It is not for me to say what advice in the matter the House may wish to give or not to give to the Government. Apparently there is no desire to know what the facts are, or whether the cost can be met or not. In the circumstances, Sir, I have nothing more to add."

Mr. B. Venkataratnam then addressed the House in Telugu

* Mr. K. KRISHNASWAMI NAYAKAR :—" மிஸ்டர் பிரசிடென்ட், ஸார், உலகத்தில் பஞ்சம் மிகுதியாக காணப்படுகின்றது. ஏனென்றால் சரியான காலத்தில் மழையில்லாமல் பிரஜைகள் மிகவும் தரித்திரத்தில் மூழ்கிக் கிடக்கின்றார்கள். ஆகையால் கிராம உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களாகிய வில்லேஜ் முன்சீபு, கணக்கப்பிள்ளை இவர்களுக்கு நபர் ஒன்றுக்கு 15 ரூபாயும், தோட்டி, தலையாரிகளுக்கு நபர் ஒன்றுக்கு 10 ரூபாயும் கொடுக்கவேணுமென்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம்."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Does the hon. the Revenue Member wish to reply ?"

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" The only speech which seemed to call for a reply was that made in Telugu which I could not quite follow. I have not heard any reason adduced for the increase."

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR :—" I wish to support the motion moved by my friend Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. In the first instance, I should say that the resolution is a modest one. It asks the pay of the village officers to be raised to Rs. 15, that is their former pay. This pay of Rs. 15 was given to the village officers on the recommendation of the old Council. But for some reason or other it was reduced to Rs. 13 for the village headmen and Rs. 14 to the village karnam. When the Council passed the Restoration Act of the village officers it was informed that their pay would be reduced. The reduction was unjust on the part of the Government considering the work and responsibility of the village officers. Regarding the menials I have nothing to say but this that they should also get some increase in consideration of the poor condition of the people who are menials. With these words I support the motion."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" I move that the question be now put."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" I second it."

The motion was put and declared carried.

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Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu demanded a poll and the House divided thus:

Ayes.

1. Mr. C. D. Appavu Chettiyar.
2. „ Ramanatha Goenka.
3. „ S. V. Vanavudaiya Goundar.
4. „ M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
5. „ Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
6. „ S. Satyamurti.
7. „ C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
8. „ T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
9. „ P. Anjaneyulu.
10. „ K. Koti Reddi.
11. „ S. Muttayya Mudaliyar.
12. „ P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
13. „ C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
14. „ G. Harisarvottama Rao.
15. „ C. N. Mutturanga Mudaliyar.
16. „ Abdul Hamid Khan.
17. „ K. V. R. Swami.
18. „ K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar.
19. „ D. Narayana Raju.
20. Mr. Mothay Narayana Rao.
21. „ B. S. Mallayya.
22. „ K. Uppi Sahib.
23. „ P. Siva Rao.
24. „ C. Obi Reddi.
25. „ A. Parasurama Rao.
26. „ C. Rama Somayajulu.
27. „ Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib.
28. „ P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu.
29. „ A. Kaleswara Rao.
30. „ R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
31. „ Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib Syed Ibrahim Sahib.
32. „ L. K. Tulasiram.
33. „ K. R. Karant.
34. „ K. V. Krishnaswami Nayakar.
35. „ K. Madhavan Nayar.
36. „ B. Venkataratnam.
37. „ C. Venkatarangam Nayudu.
38. „ M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.

Noes.

1. The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.
2. „ Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks.
3. „ Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
4. „ Mr. T. E. Moir.
5. „ Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
6. „ Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
7. „ Dr. P. Subbarayan.
8. Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastriyar.
9. „ J. F. Hall.
10. „ H. H. F. M. Tyler.
11. „ H. Tireman.
12. „ G. T. Boag.
13. „ V. Pandrang Row.
14. „ S. H. Slater.
15. „ C. B. Cotterell.
16. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
17. The Zamindar of Seithur.
18. Mr. A. B. Shetty.
19. „ J. Bheemayya.
20. „ V. Ch. John.
21. „ Muppil Nayar of Kavalapara.
22. „ R. Nagan Gowda.
23. „ Subadar Major S. A. Nanjappah.
24. „ T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai.
25. „ C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar.
26. „ N. Siva Raj.
27. „ M. V. Gangadhara Siva.
28. „ T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
29. „ S. Subrahmanya Moopanar.
30. Rao Sahib P. V. S. Sundaramurti Pillai.
31. Mr. S. Venkiah.
32. „ K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
33. „ K. Krishnan.
34. „ S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
35. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.
36. Mr. V. I. Munuswami Pillai.
37. „ G. Premayya.
38. The Zamindar of Gollapalli.
39. Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur.
40. Swami A. S. Sahajanandam.
41. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
42. The Raja of Ramnad.
43. The Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.
44. Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi.
45. Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabapati Mudaliyar.
46. „ Sir A. P. Patro.
47. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
48. Mr. P. T. Rajan.
49. „ T. K. Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar.
50. „ S. N. Dorai Raja.
51. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar.
52. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
53. Mr. Muhammad Khadir Mohidin Sahib.
54. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar.
55. Mr. T. M. Moidoo Sahib.
56. Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.
57. Mr K. Ramachandra Padayachi.
58. „ K. Sarabha Reddi.
59. Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddi.
60. The Zamindar of Mirzapuram.
61. Mr. J. Kuppuswami.

Ayes 38 ; *Noes.* 61. The motion for closure was lost.

The debate on the resolution was not concluded when the House adjourned to re-assemble at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 1st March 1927.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

[27th January 1927

Appendix.

[Vide answer to question No. 81 asked by Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th January 1927, page 243 supra.]

Amount placed at the disposal of each District Board in 1926–27 for the improvement of village roads and rural water-supply.

District Board.	Village roads.	Rural water-supply.	District Board.	Village roads.	Rural water-supply.
	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.
Anantapur ...	17,148	16,421	Madura ...	5,029	15,703
Arcot, North...	19,598	17,420	Malabar ...	13,787	13,391
Arcot, South ...	6,672	20,667	Nellore ...	45,222	21,669
Bellary ...	9,371	7,631	Nilgiris ...	7,568	4,927
Chingleput ...	6,021	9,234	Ramnad ...	4,323	5,045
Chittoor ...	5,000	5,697	Salem ...	2,000	8,634
Coimbatore ...	2,647	13,438	Tanjore ...	7,890	20,325
Cuddapah ...	4,040	14,740	Tinnevelly ...	2,501	9,262
Ganjam ...	10,888	12,399	Trichinopoly ...	7,717	6,018
Godavari ...	5,254	13,218	Vizagapatam ...	5,749	12,102
Guntur ...	6,588	5,597			
Kanara, South.	2,874	11,792	Total ...	2,25,254	3,14,333
Kistna ...	14,956	27,023			
Kurnool	12,411	21,980			

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